

Approved Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room and Zoom - 7:00 pm
April 24, 2024

Trustees Present: Pat Wieser (presiding), Anna Alemani, Melissa Banks, Scott Bennewitz, Andrea Berkley, Bob Boroujerdi, Dave Briggs, Ben Chan, Randy Herbertson, Celeste LaCroix, Jay Norris, Krishna Patel, Martina Sze, Mark Silverstein, Sheila Ward, Andrew Wilk, Peter Zakowich

Trustees Absent: Andrea Berkley, Stefano Pacifico, Jeremy Price

Guests: Karl Mergenthaler, Kristin Mott, Dick lowenstein

The meeting was called to order by Pat at 7:05 p.m.

Mission Moment:

Demas Bello, Technology Coordinator, gave an overview of what his department does and new initiatives they are embarking on.

President's Report: P. Wieser

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed. Pat made a motion to approve and Randy Herbertson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Pat announced that Agata Slatterery is no longer with the Library due to a personnel matter.

Pat applauded Randy Herbertson for organizing and bringing VOCES 8 performers to the Library last night. About 100 children and 200 parents from Staples, Wilton HS and Greenwich HS were in attendance.

Jay Norris and StarUp Westport will be hosting Innovator of the Year on April 30th and will be honoring ESPN's Jimmy Pitaro.

She also shared that Dave Briggs will be interviewing James Comey on the 23rd of May.

Finance Committee: S. Bennewitz

The Town appropriation process is in full swing. Next step is meeting with the RTM/LMA and Finance Committee on Monday to present the budget.

Scott reported that one of the auditing firms that has been interviewed has been selected.

They have a large non-profit clientele, are very experienced and are enthusiastic about working with the Library. They have given three libraries in Connecticut as references.

Background and reference checks will be conducted over the next couple of weeks and hopefully will be completed by the next Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: P. Zakowich

Peter reported that nine months into the FY we are on track with the forecast.

Café revenues continue to do well due to increased traffic, resulting from increased programming.

Recently incurred legal expenses will result in a deficit of approximately \$31,000 for this FY.

Reserves will be used to cover the deficit.

Governance & Nominations Committee: S. Ward

Sheila reported that the committee is in the recruiting process for new BOT members. Interviews will be on May 1 and May 2. Currently, there are 8 highly qualified candidates.

4 positions are open – 2 Library appointees and 2 RTM/LMA appointees.

Development Committee: K. Patel

Krishna reported that the Annual Appeal has raised \$307,000 to date from 290 constituents.

She reported that the goal for Booked for the evening is \$390,000 and that Billie Jean King has agreed to be our honoree this year.

Everything is on track to reach the fundraising goal this year.

Finally, she encouraged everyone to volunteer at the upcoming Book Sale which is May 17-20.

Executive Director Report: B. Harmer

Bill reviewed highlights from his report which was previously distributed to the Board.

He provided an extensive recap of Verso Fest as well.

He shared that Brendan Toller is leaving the Library for his dream job as assistant manager of WPKN. He wished Brendan well.

New Business

None

Other Business

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Andrew Wilk entertained a motion to adjourn and Celeste LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Banks
Secretary