

White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 9, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Paul Schwarz. In attendance were Trustees Barrera, D'Ambrosio, Furth, Haynes, James, Matthews-Serra, Scherer, and Schwarz. Absent with notice were Trustee Connors and Foundation Executive Director, Libby Hollahan. Also in attendance were Library Director Brian Kenney, Assistant Library Director Kathy Degyansky, and Library Director's Secretary, Sandra McDaniel.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 12, 2014

The minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2014 were approved as submitted on a MOTION by Trustee D'Ambrosio, seconded by Trustee Furth.

Budget:

City Revenue & Expenditure Budget by Department for April 2, 2014 were reviewed.

Bills: 2013/14 Budget: #15, #16

Trustee Furth reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. Payment of bill vouchers #15, #16, was approved on a MOTION by Trustee James, seconded by Trustee D'Ambrosio.

Report of Library Administration

Library Director Kenney noted that programming was going well and that there were new technology talks scheduled at lunchtimes. Mr. Kenney remarked that the Google and MOOCS courses were well attended and had been developed and promoted by the staff. Library Director Kenney shared a newspaper story about our new 3D printer as well as several articles that mentioned the White Plains Public Library.

Mr. Kenney informed the Board that he visited the Old Guard organization and they had very positive comments regarding the library. Library Director Kenney would like to take the lead on organizing a focus group similar to the Youth Bureau to incorporate more seniors into the library.

Trustee Matthews-Serra would like to see a To Do list of our ideas so we can follow up.

Minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, page 2

Trustee Reports & Business

WLS – Trustee Furth informed the Board that WLS was still reviewing their policies.

Friends – President Schwarz reviewed the meeting minutes and remarked that Librarian Baird delivered books to the Homebound and Library Director Kenney responded that he hoped the volunteers would be able to provide that service.

Foundation – Ms. Hollahan was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report.

Other – Trustee James asked Library Director Kenney to elaborate on the next phase of the Learning Commons which was mentioned in the Foundation Report. Mr. Kenney acknowledged that the Learning Commons was being named after Hope & John Furth and would be used in different ways to engage the public and would offer more opportunities for one-to-one assistance, more classes and workshops, and access to more technology. Library Director Kenney stated that the Hope & John Furth Learning Commons would provide in one environment a wealth of services that are now scattered.

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Old Business:

Library Director Kenney stated that he had been researching the budget and other agencies were also carrying debt and that the perception that the City was not supporting the library was incorrect. Mr. Kenney remarked that several factors were contributing to the debt: the tax cap, flat or declining sales tax, economic growth, together with the salaries and benefits increase. Mr. Kenney expressed concern about the Library's growing debt services, especially in light of future renovations.

New Business:

On a MOTION by Trustee D'Ambrosio, seconded by Trustee Haynes, the 2013 New York State Annual Report was approved with the suggested minor changes.

On a MOTION by Trustee James, seconded by Trustee Haynes, the report of Personnel Additions and Deletions from payroll was approved.

Library Director Kenney discussed our current digital video surveillance policy as well as a number of very problematic situations that have arisen. The Board discussed this issue in great detail and President Schwarz asked that the topic be put on June's agenda and voted on.

Minutes of the April 9, 2014, 2014 meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, page 3

The Board noted the upcoming 2014 Trustee Institute hosted by the Library Trustees Association being held on May 2-3 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown.

Adjournment

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. on a MOTION by Trustee Scherer, seconded by Trustee D'Ambrosio.

Yuki Haynes, Secretary
Library Board of Trustees