

**White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 13, 2021**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Schwarz via Zoom.

Attendees

Trustees Present: Barrera, D'Ambrosio, Furth, Haynes, Matthews-Serra, Scherer, Schwarz and Summers. Trustee Apologies: Ricca. Also Present: Library Director Brian Kenney, Assistant Library Director Degyansky, Foundation Executive Director Nancy Rubini, and Library Director's Secretary, Sandra McDaniel. Guest: Bill Deierlein, Business Manager, Common Council member Victoria Presser Observers: Beth Kava, Diane Tabakman

Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020

The minutes of the regular meeting held on December 9, 2020 were approved on a MOTION by Trustee Haynes, seconded by Trustee Summers. All were in favor.

Budget

The City Revenue & Expenditure Budget by Department as of December 31, 2020 was reviewed. Trustee Scherer discussed items that had increased in the budget and Business Manager Deierlein responded that we had no control over the benefits budget lines as they were received from the Finance Department.

Bills: 2020-2021 Budget: Claim #5

Trustee Furth confirmed that she reviewed the bills prior to the meeting and they were in order. On a MOTION by Trustee Furth, seconded by Trustee D'Ambrosio, payment of claim #5 was approved. All were in favor.

Reports of Library Administration

The Board reviewed them and thanked the staff for the quality of their reports. A board member inquired if there was any feedback from the Understanding Blind Patrons webinar mentioned in the Adult Services report and Library Director Kenney responded he would get back to us.

Trustee Reports & Business

WLS – Trustee Matthews-Serra clarified her comments from the last meeting and said that WLS did vote on their budget and that they had not met yet. Library Director Kenney said the budget was approved for six months and he would keep Trustee Matthews-Serra apprised of changes from the PLDA side.

Friends – Library Director Kenney said that the Friends had not met.

Foundation – Executive Director Rubini stated that the annual appeal started in mid-November exceeded what was raised last year. There were many new donors and some beyond White Plains. Executive Director Rubini said this was due to the newsletter and programming. She has been working on programming and received very positive feedback from donors.

Ongoing Business

Library Director Kenney mentioned that we were running at 75% circulation vs. what we had last year at this time. Mr. Kenney said that our Grab & Go service was very popular and our programming, in February, has been expanded to include 60 programs (adult, teen and children). Library Director Kenney had received

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several inquiries as to why we were closed, and he explained that our status was based on the rate of infection in Westchester County.

Library Director Kenney remarked that the \$100,000 Altice grant from the Cable TV studio would be used to retrofit meeting rooms to merge online and in-person participants so that everyone would be able to interact. Library Director Kenney commented that people liked the opportunity to participate from home. Mr. Kenney has met with three different vendors and would present the plans at next month's meeting.

Library Director Kenney said the Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee would meet next week and were planning to have a survey through our website, and then invite stakeholders to be interviewed online, one on one. Library Director Kenney said this interim strategic plan would cover the next three years and address COVID and post COVID issues and its impact on the community.

Library Director Kenney stated that there had been an incident a month ago that caused the Grab & Go Service located in the vestibule to be moved inside. Mr. Kenney noted that this setup was now in line with a traditional curbside service where you call us and we leave the items on the table outside.

Library Director Kenney described several challenging issues that have arisen when the public has tried to register for the COVID vaccine (i.e. software crashing, no computer access or a required email) and their need for help. Mr. Kenney, along with his staff, were trying to figure out a solution where the Library could be of service.

Library Director Kenney would like to advocate for library workers to be vaccinated by initiating a letter to elected officials (State Legislature/Board of Regents/Shelley Mayer) to be part of the 1B level which includes "other educators" or be treated similarly as retail staff in the 1B category. On a MOTION by Trustee D'Ambrosio, seconded by Trustee Furth, the Board endorsed the position that library staff be included in the category 1B phase of the COVID vaccine distribution plan. All were in favor.

New Business

On a MOTION by Trustee Furth, seconded by Trustee Haynes, the report of Personnel Additions/Deletions from Payroll from October 1 – December 31, 2020 was approved. All were in favor.

President Schwarz requested a report from the Nominating Committee (Trustees Scherer and Barerra). The Nominating Committee put forth the following slate of officers: Trustee Haynes as Secretary and Trustee Schwarz as President. President Schwarz remarked that the term limit for President was three years and he was grateful for the vote of confidence.

Adjournment

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on a MOTION by Trustee Furth, seconded by Trustee Summers. All were in favor.

Library Director Kenney asked the Board to go into Executive Session.

Yuki Haynes, Secretary
Library Board of Trustees