

White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 14, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Schwarz via Zoom.

Attendees

Trustees Present: Barrera, D'Ambrosio, Furth, Haynes, Matthews-Serra, Scherer, Schwarz and Summers. Trustee Apologies: Ricca and Assistant Library Director, Kathy Degyansky. Also Present: Library Director Brian Kenney, Foundation Executive Director Nancy Rubini, and Department Secretary, Sandra McDaniel. Guest: B. Deierlein (staff), J. Lolis (staff), K. Thornton-De Stafeno (staff) Observers: B. Kava, M. Turkel

Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 10, 2021

The minutes of the regular meeting held on March 10, 2021 were approved on a MOTION by Trustee Summers, seconded by Trustee Barrera. All were in favor.

Budget

The City Revenue & Expenditure Budget by Department as of March 31, 2021 was reviewed and a board member noticed almost no expenditures in equipment for the year. Library Director Kenney responded that the year before we opened the Hub we invested heavily in computers. Business Manager Deierlein also stated that expenditures had been scaled back by the City.

Bills: 2020-2021 Budget: Claim #8

Trustee Furth reviewed the bills prior to the meeting and found them to be in order. On a MOTION by Trustee Furth, seconded by Trustee Summers, this claim was authorized for payment. All were in favor.

Reports of Library Administration

A board member said that she reviewed the Igloo workspace link from the Library Systems report and found it interesting. Library Director Kenney remarked that he went with Jim Kenny (Cable TV Director) to Igloovision in New York City to view the concept of having integrated events (both in in-person and virtual) in one room and there were a lot of possibilities.

Trustee Reports & Business

WLS – Trustee Matthews-Serra said that she was not at last month's meeting but she would be attending the second strategy meeting on Monday.

Friends – Library Director Kenney stated the Friends meeting was canceled. President Schwarz said he had received their newsletter with their annual dues request enclosed and suggested the Board participate 100%.

Foundation – Executive Director Rubini remarked they were working on the budget and hoped to add new board members. Director Rubini said the James McBride Author Visit would be on May 4th virtually. President Kava noted the Mara Gay event on March 21st received a lot of positive feedback and a nice donation.

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Library Director Kenney reported the proposed budget would allow the Library to open for 60 hours effective July 1. Mr. Kenney said that the big gains were in these areas: hourly PT staff, CSEA overtime for Sunday Service, non-book processing, security guards salary as well as a little more money in the materials budget. Library Director Kenney thanked the City.

Library Director Kenney updated the Board on the strategic plan surveys and said the team had finished over 70 in-depth interviews and standard themes had emerged. Mr. Kenney planned to meet with Chris Gomez, Commissioner of Planning and Judith Mezey, Deputy Commissioner to discuss the findings related to demographics, the economy, and what the plans were for White Plains in the next three to five years.

Library Director Kenney noted that our ongoing survey online had over 200 responses received so far and that he would wrap up the results in a report. Mr. Kenney said the findings from the interviews revealed that the public was most interested in: equity issues and diversity in the City, a better relationship with the schools, and continuing virtual events after the building had re-opened. Library Director Kenney said other comments received were that Library Services should be dispersed throughout the community (not just a table at an event) and that the Library was perceived as too political.

Library Director Kenney stated that the Library would reopen on April 29th at Phase 2 of the Library Reopening Plan which included no seating, no copying and no computers. Mr. Kenney said we could reopen safely with a limited number allowed to browse and book appointments in the Trove. A board member asked if we would continue Grab and Go Service and Library Director Kenney replied that we would not be able to sustain it while the Library was open so we would revert back to normal hold pick up service.

Library Director Kenney planned to host an art show this summer and already has an artist available to display their work.

New Business

The Board discussed the Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and reviewed alternative dates for the potential conflict on September 8th. On a MOTION by Trustee Summers, seconded by Trustee Furth, the Board agreed to accept the current schedule. All were in favor.

On a MOTION by Trustee Scherer, seconded by Trustee Barrera, the 2021/2022 Library Hours & Holiday Schedule was accepted. All were in favor.

On a MOTION by Trustee Haynes, seconded by Trustee Summers, the Personnel Additions/Deletions from Payroll: 01/1/21-03/31/21 were approved. All were in favor.

On a MOTION by Trustee Summers, seconded by Trustee Haynes, the New York State Report – 2020 was approved. All were in favor.

Library Director Kenney said he was happy to report that Kristen Thornton- De Stafeno has been promoted to the Librarian II position. The Board congratulated Kristen, who was in attendance.

Trustee Furth inquired about the future of virtual meetings and Library Director Kenney believed that this was a temporary rule (Executive Order) in light of the pandemic and we would revert back to the previous New York State law (in-person meetings only).

Adjournment

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. on a MOTION by Trustee Matthews-Serra, seconded by Trustee Summers.

Yuki Haynes, Secretary
Library Board of Trustees