

**White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
October 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, Higgs, Schwarz and Summers. Trustee Apologies: Haynes, Matthews-Serra and Ricca. Also Present: Library Director, Brian Kenney, Assistant Library Director, Kathy Degyansky, Foundation Executive Director Nancy Rubini, and Department Secretary, Sandra McDaniel. Library Staff: Ashley Bressingham (Librarian I), Kristen Thornton-De Stafeno (Librarian II) Observers: Diane Tabakman, Mary Collins

The Board welcomed the appointment of Ayodele Higgs to the Board. Trustee Higgs will fulfill the remainder of Tom Scherer's term.

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 8, 2021**

The minutes of the regular meeting held on September 8, 2021 were approved on a MOTION by Trustee Barrera, seconded by Trustee D'Ambrosio. All were in favor.

**Budget**

The City Revenue & Expenditure Budget by Department as of September 30, 2021 was reviewed.

**Bills: 2021-2022 Budget: Claim #2**

Trustee Furth confirmed that she had reviewed the bills prior to the meeting and found them to be in order. On a MOTION by Trustee Furth, seconded by Trustee Higgs, Claim #2 was authorized for payment. All were in favor.

**Reports of Library Administration**

President Schwarz remarked that the reports of administration showed a range of programs being provided by the Library and he wanted to convey to the staff the Board's appreciation.

**Trustee Reports & Business**

**WLS** – Trustee Matthews-Serra was not in attendance.

**Friends** – Library Director Kenney said that the Friends postponed their October meeting until November.

**Foundation** – Executive Director Rubini remarked that she was looking forward to the next virtual author visit with Anita Hill which would be held on November 1 at 7 p.m. Ms. Rubini noted that a generous donor had paid for some of her books to be available for Library patrons prior to the event. Executive Director Rubini stated that several community organizations such as the YWCA and the Westchester County Human Rights Commission as well as patrons, Janet and John Bailey and Diane Tabakman and David Rhoades, had sponsored this event. Ms. Rubini also mentioned that she was working on another virtual event to take place in mid-December.

**Minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, page 2**

Library Director Kenney thanked all those involved in revising the Strategic Plan. The five goals from the strategic plan were: promote equity, diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), expand community engagement, renew our infrastructure, improve sustainability and learn from COVID. Librarian Bressingham discussed with the Board the actions items connected with EDI and antiracism as core values in the Library, White Plains community, and beyond. Mr. Kenney said that more work needed to be done to provide services for people with disabilities. Librarian Thornton-De Stafeno discussed with the Board expanding community engagement and the action items planned for the Library to be an active presence throughout the White Plains community, especially in areas that were underserved. Library Director Kenney thanked Librarian Carroll for working on sustainability and bringing forth the green initiative and he talked briefly about the action plan. Mr. Kenney said that Librarian Carroll would speak about the green initiative at next month's meeting. Library Director Kenney touched upon the Library's response to COVID and said that we were already documenting it and it would become a part of our collection. The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan 2022-2024 and proposed some suggestions. Library Director Kenney said he would make the changes and resend it to the Board. President Schwarz asked that the Board review it next month.

Library Director Kenney noted the contract for the Altice Immersion Project had been signed last week and minor construction would start next week. Mr. Kenney said the project would be completed by the end of the year.

Library Director Kenney commented that he was developing criteria to transition to limited public programming in January. Commissioner Wayne Bass of Recreation and Parks requested the use of several spaces within the Library to conduct programs and provide meals to seniors (approximately 35) as the Senior Center had flooded during Hurricane Ida. Commissioner Bass said all programming had been suspended and would not be available until January when their building would be fixed. Library Director Kenney recommended that an emergency exception be made regarding public programming in the Library in order to protect the health and well-being of the seniors. On a MOTION from Trustee Furth, seconded by Trustee Summers, the Library would provide space (the auditorium and the museum gallery 4x a week) for the seniors. Mr. Kenney also mentioned a request from the Planning Department to hold the One White Plains Listening Tour of the Comprehensive Plan at the Library for approximately 125 people. The Board considered and denied support of this request as the intended audience was too large.

Library Director Kenney stated he had no word yet on the opening of the Everyday Café.

**New Business**

On a MOTION by Trustee Barrera, seconded by Trustee Higgs, Payroll Additions and Deletions from July 1 through September 30, 2021 were approved.

President Schwarz said board officers' term changes would take place in February and he was term limited; therefore, he was appointing a Nominating Committee consisting of Trustee Haynes and himself. President Schwarz said the committee would make a report in January and report back to the Board in February. A board member asked about term limits and Library Director Kenney responded he would check on them and get back to the Board.

The Board was delighted to recognize ten years of service to our administrators, Assistant Library Director Kathy Degyansky and Library Director Brian Kenney.

**Adjournment**

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. on a MOTION by Trustee D'Ambrosio, seconded by Trustee Furth.

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Pro tem Secretary  
Library Board of Trustees