

**White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 10, 2021**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Schwarz via Zoom.

Attendees

Trustees Present: Barrera, D'Ambrosio, Haynes, Higgs, Schwarz and Summers. Trustee Apologies: Furth 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: Kathlyn Carroll (Guest Speaker), Kristen Thornton-De Stafeno Observers: Beth Kava, Miriam Turkel

President Schwarz appointed Trustee Barrera as Pro-tem Secretary for the last meeting.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 13, 2021

The minutes of the regular meeting held on October 13, 2021 were approved on a MOTION by Trustee Barrera, seconded by Trustee Haynes. All were in favor.

Budget

The City Revenue & Expenditure Budget by Department as of October 31, 2021 was reviewed.

Bills: 2021-2022 Budget: Claim #3

President Schwarz confirmed that Trustee Furth had reviewed the bills prior to the meeting and found them to be in order. On a MOTION by Trustee Haynes, seconded by Trustee Summers, Claim #3 was authorized for payment. All were in favor.

Reports of Library Administration

The Board reviewed the reports of administration and had no comments.

Trustee Reports & Business

WLS – Trustee Matthews-Serra was not in attendance.

Friends – Library Director Kenney said that he met with the Friends this morning and reported that they were selling books and bringing in revenue. Mr. Kenney noted that donations were limited to 20 items per person.

Foundation – Executive Director Rubini commented that the Foundation's virtual author visit on November 1 with Anita Hill was well received and thanked President Kava for interviewing Professor Hill. Approximately 140 people attended the program. Ms. Rubini also thanked the sponsors for their community support and said a recording of the program would be available soon. Director Rubini announced an upcoming virtual author visit with Mark Oppenheimer on the evening of December 16th. He'll be talking about his new book, *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood* and Mayor Roach will conduct the interview.

Ongoing Business

Library Director Kenney said he took the recommendations for the Strategic Plan from the last meeting and made the revisions. The Board reviewed the revised strategic plan. On a MOTION by Trustee Haynes, seconded by Trustee Summers, the Strategic Plan 2022-2024 was adopted. All were in favor.

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Library Director Kenney informed the Board that there was no money in the budget for professional development and diversity and inclusiveness were a significant part of the strategic plan. Mr. Kenney asked the Board to pass on any information on workshops that they know of on these topics. Library Director Kenney stated that a few WLS libraries may participate with us and share the cost of a speakers and trainers.

Library Director Kenney mentioned that work on the Altice Room had not started as the hardware was not yet here due to distribution problems. Mr. Kenney announced that that staff was undergoing training at the Igloo offices this week and next.

Library Director Kenney introduced Librarian Kathlyn Carroll (Youth Services) who presented the Library's green initiative project. Mr. Kenney commented that Librarian Carroll had put in a tremendous amount of work on the green initiative and thanked her for all her work. Librarian Carroll also shared the environmental policy. Library Director Kenney noted that DPW (Department of Public Works) had already done made green improvements over the years such as LED lighting that has reduced the electricity costs significantly. Mr. Kenney stated that he would like the Board to review the Environmental Policy and vote on it next month. Librarian Carroll will send the report to the Green Business Partnership in order to obtain a Green Business Certification. A board member suggested that the Everyday Café should be incorporated into the green initiatives.

Library Director Kenney said that the seniors were the only group with in-person programming in the building and were scheduled until January 2022. Mr. Kenney noted this was working out well. Library Director Kenney stated that he planned to experiment with programming in a controlled fashion and start out with some events with limited numbers and see how that went. Mr. Kenney said that in-person programming was predicated on three factors: 1) community transmission was at a moderate level for three consecutive weeks, 2) hospitalizations were low and stable and 3) that 80% of the total population was fully vaccinated. Library Director Kenney commented that the transmission rate fluctuates, hospitalizations were low, and we were at 79.7% of fully vaccinated people. A board member inquired if patrons should have to provide proof of vaccination in order to attend Library programming. The Board discussed this and Library Director Kenney advised the Board that he would investigate the legal aspects, if any, in asking for proof of vaccination and get back to them.

Library Director Kenney and Mr. Herrero, owner of the Everyday Healthy Café, talked about re-opening the Café in January. Mr. Kenney said they spent two days looking at foot traffic around the area and both agreed to keep the Café closed. Library Director Kenney remarked that Mr. Herrero's two biggest sources of revenue were from the Courthouses and Library programs – of which both which were mainly still virtual. Mr. Kenney commented that Mr. Herrero was still committed to the Café as he had installed new equipment.

New Business

President Schwarz discussed the Board terms (Trustees Furth, Haynes and himself) that were expiring on December 30, 2021. Trustee Schwarz stated that he would continue on the Board and Trustee Haynes announced that she would be stepping down from the Board when her term expired. Trustee Furth was not in attendance.

Adjournment

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a MOTION by Trustee Haynes, seconded by Trustee Summers.

Yuki Haynes, Secretary
Library Board of Trustees