



(APPROVED 02/15/24)

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NEW CITY LIBRARY**

January 18, 2024 (7 p.m.)

(New City Library, 220 North Main St., New City, NY)

**PRESENT:** Victor Berger, Trustee  
Robert Axelrod, Trustee  
Joseph Ciardullo, Trustee  
James Ferguson, Trustee  
Nicholas A. Longo, Jr., Trustee  
Roxanne T. Perrone, Trustee  
Patricia Ranieri, Trustee  
Jeffrey Sasson, Trustee  
Patricia Voce, Trustee

**STAFF:** Marianne Gallagher, Library Director  
Shibu Abraham, Facilities and Finance Manager  
Kelly Corrado, Administrative Assistant

**ABSENT:** None

**GUEST:** Lisa Coughlin, Former Secretary of the Board

**I. INTRODUCTORY**

a. Meeting Called to Order:

This *Regular Meeting* immediately followed the *Annual Meeting*. The *Pledge of Allegiance* was previously recited at the *Annual Meeting*.

b. Notice of Request for Officer Positions:

Guest Lisa Coughlin, former *Secretary of the Board*, reported that she received notice from the following trustees requesting *Officer* positions:

- Victor Berger for President
- Patricia Voce for Vice-President
- Robert Axelrod for Treasurer
- James Ferguson for Secretary

c. Appointment of Chair Pro Tempore of the Meeting:

- Upon motion made by Axelrod and duly seconded by Voce, it was:

RESOLVED, that *Nicholas A. Longo, Jr., serve as Chair Pro Tempore of the meeting.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#1-01/2024)

d. Election of Officers:

President: Longo inquired if there were any nominations from the floor for *Officer* positions. None were noted. Since there were no other nominations, Longo directed that one vote be cast in favor of Berger for President.

- Upon motion made by Axelrod and duly seconded by Sasson, it was:

RESOLVED, that *Victor Berger serve as President of the Board of Trustees.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#2-01/2024)

Berger thereby chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Vice-President: Longo inquired if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Vice-President. None were noted. Since there were no other nominations, Longo directed that one vote be cast in favor of Voce for Vice-President.

- Upon motion made by Longo and duly seconded by Sasson, it was:

RESOLVED, that *Patricia Voce serve as Vice-President of the Board of Trustees.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#3-01/2024)

Treasurer: Longo inquired if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Treasurer. None were noted. Since there were no other nominations, Longo directed that one vote be cast in favor of Axelrod for Treasurer.

- Upon motion made by Longo and duly seconded by Voce, it was:

RESOLVED, *that Robert Axelrod serve as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#4-01/2024)

Secretary: Longo inquired if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary. None were noted. Since there were no other nominations, Longo directed that one vote be cast in favor of Ferguson for Secretary.

- Upon motion made by Voce and duly seconded by Axelrod, it was:

RESOLVED, *that James Ferguson serve as Secretary of the Board of Trustees.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#5-01/2024)

President Berger congratulated Trustee Longo on his re-election and welcomed incoming trustees, Joseph Ciardullo and Roxanne T. Perrone, to the Board.

e. Appointment of Committee Chairman (President Berger):

President Berger appointed the following Committee Chairs:

- Sasson: *Building and Grounds Committee*
- Ranieri: *Legal Affairs Committee*
- Axelrod: *Personnel and Finance Committee*
- Longo: *Policy and Planning Committee*

President Berger appointed the following Ad hoc Committee Chairs:

- Berger: *Bargaining Negotiating Committee*
- Longo: *Election Committee*

President Berger appointed the *Trustees* to serve on the following *Committees*:

- *Building and Grounds Committee:*
  - Sasson (Chair)
  - Berger
  - Ciardullo
  - Ferguson
  - Perrone
  
- *Legal Affairs Committee:*
  - Ranieri (Chair)
  - Axelrod
  
- *Personnel and Finance Committee:*
  - Axelrod (Chair)
  - Berger
  - Longo
  - Voce
  
- *Policy and Planning Committee:*
  - Longo (Chair)
  - Berger
  - Ferguson
  - Ranieri
  
- *Ad hoc: Bargaining Negotiating Committee:*
  - Berger (Chair)
  - Axelrod
  - Voce
  
- *Ad hoc: Election Committee:*
  - Longo (Chair)
  - Ciardullo
  - Perrone
  
- *Ad hoc: Fundraising Committee:*
  - Sasson (Chair)
  - Axelrod
  - Voce

## II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Ferguson presented to the Board for acceptance the proposed minutes of the previous month's meeting.

- Upon motion made by Longo and duly seconded by Perrone, it was:

*RESOLVED, that the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of December 21, 2023.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#6-01/2024)

## III. REPORTS

### a. Personnel and Finance Committee (Axelrod, Chair):

#### i. Financial Report and Warrant:

Treasurer Axelrod reported that the Library's operating expenditures were \$345,467 and the capital expenditures were \$123,044.

Axelrod presented to the Board for approval last month's *Warrant*.

- Upon motion made by Sasson and duly seconded by Ferguson, it was:

*RESOLVED, That the Board approve Warrant #6 in the amount of \$468,691.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#7-1/2024)

#### ii. Personnel:

Axelrod reported that the *Committee* met on January 11 to discuss the hiring of a new children's librarian for the current vacant position due to the termination of the recently-hired children's librarian, who was terminated within the probation period. The *Committee* recommends delaying hiring for the position until the *Collective Bargaining Agreement* is finalized.

iii. Building Liens:

The *Committee* met on January 11 to also discuss the liens that were received from the subcontractors who worked on the *Renovation Project*. The *Committee* recommends withholding further payments to the construction company until the matter is resolved. The Library's legal counsel has been notified.

Sasson suggested that a survey be conducted of every area of the Library to determine defective work.

b. Building and Grounds Committee (Sasson, Chair):

i. Renovation Project:

Sasson reported that the *Committee* met on January 10 to discuss the water leakage in the lower level. Director Gallagher recommends seeking out another contractor to perform the work, instead of using *Consigli Construction Company*, in light of the current legal issues with *Consigli*.

ii. NYS Construction Aid:

Sasson deferred to Finance and Facilities Manager Abraham who reported that the Library plans to consult with Stephen Hoefler, *RCLS Fiscal Officer*, to determine if the *New York State Construction Aid*, which was previously approved for the drainage project, can be reconsidered for other projects.

c. Policy and Planning Committee (Longo, Chair):

Longo had nothing to report.

d. Legal Affairs Committee (Ranieri, Chair):

Ranieri had nothing further to report than what had been reported earlier by Treasurer Axelrod in the *Personnel and Finance Committee* report regarding liens on the building.

e. Ad Hoc Committee: Bargaining Negotiating Committee (Berger, Chair):

Axelrod reported that discussions have resumed with the contract negotiator. The *Committee* submitted a proposal for consideration.

f. President’s Report (Berger):

President Berger had nothing to report.

g. Director (Gallagher):

Director Gallagher had nothing to report, except to remind the trustees that the *Annual Staff Meeting* had been re-scheduled to February 2.

Director Gallagher invited incoming trustees, Ciardullo and Perrone, to a tour of the Library at their mutual convenience.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Appointment of Attorney (Berger):

President Berger proposed that the Board re-appoint *Ferick Nugent MacCartney, PLLC*, as the official *Counsel* of the Library.

- Upon motion made by Axelrod and duly seconded by Ferguson, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board appoint *Ferick Nugent MacCartney, PLLC*, as the official *Counsel* of the New City Library.

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#8-01/2024)

b. Appointment of Auditors (Berger):

Treasurer Axelrod requested that the appointment of the auditors be tabled until next month’s meeting after the *Personnel and Finance Committee* meets to discuss possibly changing auditors.

Sasson offered a recommendation of an auditing firm.

Director Gallagher reported that she has also sought recommendations for auditing firms from other member libraries.

c. Board Communications (Ferguson):

Ferguson had nothing to report.

d. 2023/2024 Trustee Training/Staff Training (Corrado):

Corrado reported that the trustees have all met their *2023 New York State Trustee Training* requirements. Corrado reminded the trustees that two hours of trustee training annually is now mandatory and that both the trustees and the staff must meet the mandated *New York State Sexual Harassment Prevention Training* annually, as well.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments offered.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Upon motion made by Ferguson and duly seconded by Longo, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board adjourn the meeting.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#9-01/2024)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by James Ferguson, Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
February 2, 2024

JF/kc