



(APPROVED 07/15/21)
**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NEW CITY LIBRARY**

June 17, 2021

(7 p.m.)

PRESENT: Victor Berger, President
David Zuckerberg, Vice-President
Denis O’Hanlon, Treasurer
Robert Axelrod, Secretary
Lisa Coughlin, Trustee
Phyllis Morena, Trustee
Patricia Ranieri, Trustee (*via Zoom*)
Jeffrey Sasson, Trustee
Patricia Voce, Trustee

ABSENT: Ralph Sabatini, Trustee Emeritus

STAFF: Marianne Gallagher, Director
Shibu Abraham, Facilities & Finance Manager
Kelly Corrado, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Esha Pandya, Girl Scout Gold Award Project (*The Little Free Library*)
Julie Sadowski, Executive Director, Rockland Community Foundation

I. INTRODUCTORY

a. Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

b. Guest: Esha Pandya:

Director Gallagher welcomed Esha Pandya, a young adult advocate of the Library, who expressed her deep appreciation of the many materials and programs that the Library offers to the community. As part of her *Girl Scout Gold Award Project*, Miss Pandya installed *The Little Free Library* adjacent to the patio at the entrance of the Library, giving the patrons an opportunity to read books when the Library is closed.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Berger presented a *Certificate of Appreciation* to Miss Pandya for her fine efforts in promoting literacy.

II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Axelrod presented to the Board for acceptance the proposed *Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of May 20, 2021*.

- Upon motion made by Axelrod and duly seconded by O’Hanlon, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of May 20, 2021.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#1-06/2021)

III. REPORTS

a. Personnel and Finance Committee (O’Hanlon, Chair):

i. Financial Report of May 31, 2021, and Warrant #11:

Treasurer O’Hanlon reported that the Library’s finances for the month were \$244,854 and an additional amount of \$53,758 for renovation fees.

O’Hanlon presented to the Board for approval the *Financial Report of May 31, 2021, and Warrant #11*.

- Upon motion made by O’Hanlon and duly seconded by Axelrod, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board approve Warrant #11 in the amount of \$298,612.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#2-06/2021)

Vice-President Zuckerberg suggested that it would be helpful going forward if an additional column can be inserted into the financials, which would offer an at-a-glance reference of each month’s renovation costs.

ii. Personnel:

O’Hanlon had nothing to report.

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

i. Redesign Project: HVAC System:

Sasson reported that the *Committee* met earlier today before the Board meeting with *Bob Gruffi of OLA* to discuss the results of the evaluation of the *HVAC System*.

ii. Redesign Project: HAZMAT Report:

Director Gallagher reported that she received the *HAZMAT Report* yesterday (June 16) and will arrange a meeting with the *Committee* to discuss its findings.

iii. Redesign Project: Design and Development Phase:

Gallagher reported that the *Design and Development Phase* should be completed by mid-July, followed by the *Construction Documents Phase*.

iv. Rockland Country Day School:

Director Gallagher had no update to report.

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

i. RCLS Free Direct Access Plan (2022-2026):

Morena reported that the *Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS)* prepared for its member libraries a *Free Direct Access Plan* covering the years 2022-2026. The Board then agreed to table the item until the next Board meeting in order to allow the trustees additional time to review it.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board table the *RCLS Free Direct Access Plan (2022-2026)* until the next Board meeting.

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#3-06/2021)

ii. Bylaws Amendment: Trustee Term Limits:

Secretary Axelrod proposed an amendment to the *Bylaws* by increasing the number of terms a trustee can serve from three three-year consecutive terms to four three-year consecutive terms in the interest of continuity for the renovation project.

Morena is concerned that a twelve-year term of service is unreasonably long; thus, a Board can become stagnant.

Zuckerberg is an advocate of term limits. Zuckerberg is concerned that a twelve-year term of service is excessively long.

A lengthy discussion followed.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board cease the discussion and proceed to vote on the proposed amendment to the Bylaws.

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Zuckerberg, opposed).
(RM#4-06/2021)

Secretary Axelrod presented to the Board for approval the proposed amendment to the *Bylaws*.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board amend the Bylaws to increase the number of term limits that a trustee can serve from three three-year consecutive terms to four three-year consecutive terms.

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Morena, abstained; Zuckerberg, opposed). (RM#5-06/2021)

d. Legal Affairs Committee (Axelrod, Chair):

Axelrod had nothing to report.

e. President’s Report (Berger):

President Berger had nothing to report.

f. Director’s Report (Gallagher):

Gallagher referred to her written *Director’s Report*. In addition, Director Gallagher reported on the following:

i. Facial Coverings Status Change:

Director Gallagher reported that after consulting with the Library’s legal counsel, as well as with the Staff Association President Karen Vetrano, the Library will update its status on June 21 from ***Facial Coverings Required*** to ***Facial Coverings Recommended***. Staff will still be required to wear facial coverings while working at the public desks or while walking throughout the Library. Staff will be permitted to remove their facial coverings in their shared office space, provided they submit proof of *COVID-19 Vaccination* to the Director. Staff **not** providing proof of vaccination will be required to wear facial coverings in their shared office space.

ii. Guest: Julie Sadowski:

Director Gallagher welcomed Julie Sadowski, Executive Director of *Rockland Community Foundation (RCF)*. Sadowski explained that *RCF* is a non-profit that manages charitable funds and offers high exposure for fundraising for organizations.

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

RESOLVED, *that the Board approve the opening of a fund with the Rockland Community Foundation for purposes of fundraising for the Library Renovation Project.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, absent for the vote due to his early departure of the meeting at 7:45 p.m.). (RM#6-06/2021)

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Communications (Axelrod, Secretary):

Due to Axelrod's early departure, there was no report.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Axelrod, absent for the vote due to his early departure of the meeting at 7:45 p.m.). (RM#7-06/2021)

Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Submitted by Robert Axelrod, Secretary
Board of Trustees
NEW CITY LIBRARY
June 21, 2021

RA/kc