



NEW CITY LIBRARY

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF NEW CITY, CONGERS AND BARDONIA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEW CITY LIBRARY September 15, 2016

PRESENT: Victor Berger, President Agin Antony, Trustee
Joseph Reiter, Vice President Anthony Feliciano, Trustee
Ralph Sabatini, Treasurer Phyllis Morena, Trustee
David Zuckerberg, Secretary Jeffrey Sasson, Trustee

ABSENT: Robert Axelrod, Trustee

STAFF: Marianne Silver, Director
Shibu Abraham, Finance/Facilities Manager
Kelly Corrado, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: None

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. Public Comments:

No public comments were offered.

II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary David Zuckerberg presented the proposed *Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of August 18, 2016*, for acceptance.

- Upon motion made by David Zuckerberg and duly seconded by Ralph Sabatini, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board accept the *Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of August 18, 2016*.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent, Jeffrey Sasson tardy). (RM#1-09/2016)

III. REPORTS

a. Personnel and Finance Committee (R. Sabatini, chair):

i. Tax Cap:

Ralph Sabatini reported that the Committee met to discuss the tax cap, which is currently 0.80 percent. The Committee proposes that the Library exceed the tax cap for the fiscal year 2018. Sabatini explained that the tax cap should be exceeded because 1) the Library has been spending money from the capital fund, which should be replenished, and 2) the school district no longer advances tax payments, which is creating a cash flow problem. A general discussion followed.

Joseph Reiter supported exceeding the tax cap and stated that merging New City Library with West Nyack Library should be explored in order to make it equitable for the residents of both New City and West Nyack.

Sabatini commented that West Nyack Library's service area is approximately one-fifth of the size of the service area of New City Library.

David Zuckerberg inquired about the possibility of changing the Library's fiscal year, which was discussed, in general, at a past board meeting. Sabatini stated that he intends to follow up with the auditors about the process involved.

- Upon motion made by Ralph Sabatini and duly seconded by Joseph Reiter, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board exceed the tax cap for the 2018 Budget.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#2-09/2016)

ii. Personnel:

Ralph Sabatini reported that a personnel issue will be discussed in *Executive Session*.

iii. Financial Report of August 31, 2016, and Warrant #2:

Ralph Sabatini presented the *Financial Report of August 31, 2016*, and *Warrant #2* for approval.

- Upon motion made by Ralph Sabatini and duly seconded by David Zuckerberg, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board approve Warrant #2 in the amount of \$402,228. The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#3-09/2016)

b. Building and Grounds Committee (J. Sasson, chair):

i. Parking Lot Project:

Jeffrey Sasson reported that the Committee met earlier in the week to discuss the paving schedule for the parking lot.

ii. Patio Paver Fundraiser Project:

Marianne Silver reported that the *Patio Paver Fundraiser Project* is now in full swing and is on-going. Silver further reported that Veronica Reynolds prepared the flyer and the application and will be promoting the *Fundraiser* via various methods. Silver also reported that administrative assistant Kelly Corrado will be coordinating the paver orders.

A general discussion followed regarding the placement of the pavers.

Victor Berger inquired if businesses and organizations could be permitted to purchase pavers. Phyllis Morena commented that if businesses and organizations were permitted to purchase pavers, it could show a display of partnership with the Library, thus promoting the community as a whole.

- Upon motion made by David Zuckerberg and duly seconded by Agin Antony, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board permit businesses and organizations to purchase pavers to be engraved with non-promotional messages for the *Patio Paver Fundraiser Project*.

The Resolution was passed by a vote of six to two (Jeffrey Sasson and Anthony Feliciano opposed, Robert Axelrod absent.) (RM#4-09/2016)

c. Policy and Planning Committee (P. Morena, chair):

Phyllis Morena reported that the Committee met to discuss the schedule of the paving of the parking lot, which would make it necessary to close the Library for a couple of days. Staff would not report to work on Monday, October 3, 2016; however, fulltime staff would report to work on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, even though the Library will be closed to the public on both October 3rd and 4th. This arrangement is weather dependent. Morena presented the closing of the Library for Board approval.

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

RESOLVED, *that the Board close the Library to the public and staff on Monday, October 3, 2016, and to the public only on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, with the discretion to change the closing dates based upon the weather.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#5-09/2016)

d. Ad Hoc Committees:

i. Liaison to the Friends of the New City Library (R. Axelrod, chair):

No report was offered due to the absence of Robert Axelrod.

ii. Legal Affairs of the New City Library (J. Reiter, chair):

Joseph Reiter reported that an issue has now been resolved regarding pay between an employee and the Library.

iii. Nominating Committee (J. Reiter, chair):

Joseph Reiter reported that the *Nominating Committee* has been formed, naming Phyllis Morena and Anthony Feliciano as committee members and Reiter as Chair.

Reiter reported that the *Legal Notices* regarding the trustee elections have been sent for publication and that the applications to run for trustee are available at the Library's service desks in the Circulation, Children's, and Reference Departments.

Reiter stated that the application deadline for Board consideration is October 1st and that the trustee petition deadline is the second week of November. He also stated that Jeffrey Sasson, Ralph Sabatini, and David Zuckerberg are running for re-election.

Reiter proposed that a change be made to the Bylaws regarding the two-term limit. He stated that the Board is currently working as a cohesive body and that a time off of only one-year to re-run encourages board participation.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding whether or not the Board should vote now on the proposal or wait for a period of time. Phyllis Morena stated that the current three-year period is desirable because it brings fresh ideas.

The Board agreed to discuss and vote on the topic at the next board meeting.

e. President (V. Berger):

Victor Berger offered no report.

f. Director (M. Silver):

Marianne Silver read highlights from her *Director's Report*. Silver reported that the *Construction Grant* is now complete with minor changes to the application.

Silver also reported that preliminary work has begun on the audit and that the fieldwork is scheduled for Monday, September 19th.

Silver congratulated teen librarian Mary Phillips for a job well done at the *Battle of the Books*. The New City Library team placed third in the competition. Phillips added that fifteen teams competed, totaling approximately one hundred teen students. Silver commented that Phillips has the ability to engage teens and that the *Battle of the Books* programming fits the core of the Library's mission.

Phyllis Morena inquired about the *One Town, One Book* programming. Silver explained the details of the program, which will feature the book, *Duel with the Devil*. The programming will run throughout the fall season and program offerings will be varied, including book discussions, films, lectures, etc., as well as a Skype interview with the author. Silver stated that approximately sixty patrons have registered for the program, thus far.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was reported.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Communications:

David Zuckerberg read an E-Mail from a patron who inquired if the minutes of the board meetings are available on the web site. Phyllis Morena suggested that the agenda, minutes, and director's reports should be uploaded to the web site for reference for the patrons. Morena also suggested that Board candidates provide a personal statement to be included in the web site as to why they want to be a member of the Board.

b. RCLS Operating Budget:

David Zuckerberg explained that hearings for the *RCLS Operating Budget* are scheduled in each county. The *RCLS Operating Budget* will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Vetrano reported that seven boxes of school supplies were collected for underprivileged children in the “Back to School with Dignity” project, which was sponsored by the Staff Association for *People to People*.

A public comment was offered stating that the *Street Fair* is scheduled on a Jewish holiday.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Upon motion made by Ralph Sabatini and duly seconded by Joseph Reiter, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#6-09/2016)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Upon motion made by Victor Berger and duly seconded by Joseph Reiter, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board adjourn the meeting.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#07-09/2016)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted by David Zuckerberg, Secretary
Board of Trustees
NEW CITY LIBRARY
October 10, 2016

DZ/kc

MOTIONS

(RM#1-09/2016) Upon motion made by David Zuckerberg and duly seconded by Ralph Sabatini, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of August 18, 2016.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent, Jeffrey Sasson tardy). (RM#1-09/2016)

(RM#2-09/2016) Upon motion made by Ralph Sabatini and duly seconded by Joseph Reiter, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board exceed the tax cap for the 2018 Budget.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#2-09/2016)

(RM#3-09/2016) Upon motion made by Ralph Sabatini and duly seconded by David Zuckerberg, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board approve Warrant #2 in the amount of \$402,228.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#3-09/2016)

(RM#4-09/2016) Upon motion made by David Zuckerberg and duly seconded by Agin Antony, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board permit businesses and organizations to purchase pavers to be engraved with non-promotional messages for the Patio Paver Fundraiser Project.

The Resolution was passed by a vote of six to two (Jeffrey Sasson and Anthony Feliciano opposed, Robert Axelrod absent.) (RM#4-09/2016)

(RM#5-09/2016) Upon motion made by Phyllis Morena and duly seconded by Jeffrey Sasson, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board close the Library to the public and staff on Monday, October 3, 2016, and to the public only on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, with the discretion to change the closing dates based upon the weather.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#5-09/2016)

(RM#6-09/2016) Upon motion made by Ralph Sabatini and duly seconded by Joseph Reiter, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#6-09/2016)

(RM#7-09/2016) Upon motion made by Victor Berger and duly seconded by Joseph Reiter, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

The Resolution was passed unanimously by all those present (Robert Axelrod absent). (RM#07-09/2016)