



(APPROVED 01/18/24)
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NEW CITY LIBRARY
December 21, 2023 (7 p.m.)
(New City Library, 220 North Main St., New City, NY)

PRESENT: Patricia Voce, Vice-President
Robert Axelrod, Treasurer
Lisa Coughlin, Secretary

James Ferguson, Trustee
Nicholas A. Longo, Jr., Trustee
Phyllis Morena, Trustee
Patricia Ranieri, Trustee
Jeffrey Sasson, Trustee

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

ABSENT: Victor Berger, President

I. INTRODUCTORY

a. Meeting Called to Order:

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

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

Due to President Berger's absence, the meeting was presided by Vice-President Voce.

II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary's Coughlin presented to the Board for acceptance the *Minutes* of the previous month's meeting.

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

RESOLVED, *That the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of November 16, 2023.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Berger, absent). (RM#1-12/2023)

III. REPORTS

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

i. Financial Report and Warrant:

Treasurer Axelrod reported that the Library's operating expenditures were \$747,329 and the capital expenditures were \$608,180. Three payroll checks, as well as the annual payment to the *New York State Retirement System*, were included in this month's expenses; thus, the operating expenditures were higher than the previous month.

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

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

RESOLVED, *That the Board approve Warrant #5 in the amount of \$1,355,509.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Berger, absent). (RM#2-12/2023)

ii. PCSB Bank 2023 Small Business Recovery Grant:

Treasurer Axelrod reported that the Library was recognized by *PCSB Bank* for its contributions to the community and was the recipient of the *2023 Small Business Recovery Grant* awarded by *PCSB Bank* in the amount of \$2,500.

iii. Budget Vote:

Treasurer Axelrod reported that the *FY2025 Proposed Budget* passed with 531 yes votes/156 no votes, and a total of 687 votes were cast.

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

i. Renovation Project:

Sasson reported that the *Committee* did not meet this past month. He referred to Director Gallagher who reported on the following:

- Elevator repairs completed.
- Plumbing issues resolved.
- HVAC issues are currently being addressed by *Trane*.
- Liens regarding *Peak Mechanical* were received and forwarded to legal counsel for review.

Sasson expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Board, the Director, and to the staff, for the hard work and effort given to the *Renovation Project* thereby making a fifty-year-old building ready for the next fifty years. Sasson is pleased with the accomplishments of the team.

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

Morena reported that the *Committee* met earlier in the week to discuss the *Strategic Plan* and recommends extending it for one year since the current *Plan* still applies.

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

RESOLVED, *That the Board extend the Strategic Plan for one year.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Berger, absent). (RM#3-12/2023)

d. Legal Affairs Committee (Ranieri, Chair):

Ranieri had nothing to report other than her input regarding the liens discussed in the *Building and Grounds Committee* report earlier in the meeting.

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

Axelrod reported that there has been little progress with the union representative regarding the *Collective Bargaining Agreement*. The *Committee* plans to arrange a meeting with the union representative to discuss his latest proposal.

f. Ad Hoc Committee: Election Committee (Ranieri, Chair):

Ranieri reported on the following:

- Incumbent *Nicholas A. Longo, Jr.*, was re-elected.
- Candidates *Joseph Ciardullo* and *Roxanne Perrone* were newly elected.
- The results are as follows:
 - Longo (286 votes)
 - Ciardullo (268 votes)
 - Perrone (258 votes)

On behalf of the Board, Ranieri congratulated the winners.

Ranieri further reported that the *Election Committee* duties have been concluded for this year and that the *Election Committee Reports* will resume when the *Trustee Election Process* begins next year.

g. President’s Report (Berger):

Due to President Berger’s absence, there was no report.

h. Director’s Report (Gallagher):

Director Gallagher reported that the *Grand Re-opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony* is scheduled for December 30 at 12:15 p.m. Refreshments and giveaways will be available to the attendees.

Gallagher reminded the Board that a group photo will be taken at the January Board meeting.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Communications (Coughlin, Secretary):

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were received regarding a request for an additional handicap ramp to be built at the entrance where the new stairs were constructed. The patron's concerns will be addressed with the appropriate *Committees*.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Upon motion made by Ranieri and duly seconded by Coughlin, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board adjourn the meeting.*

The Resolution was passed by all those present (Berger, absent). (RM#4-12/2023)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Coughlin, Secretary
Board of Trustees
NEW CITY LIBRARY
January 4, 2023

LC/kc