

## The Field Library

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, October 21, 2021, held in person and via Zoom

Present: Tina Romeo, Ann Douglas, Karen Kelley, Melinda Cosentino, Mary Foster, Ben Bloom, Christopher Alexander, Joe Galella, Sandra Smith, Councilwoman Patricia Riley, Secretary Friends of The Field Library Dan Grossman

1. The meeting was called to order at 7.10pm
2. Ms. Romeo moved to adopt the minutes of September 23 with the additional note that Christopher Alexander is moving to Somers, NY; second by Ms. Cosentino; eight in favor, two abstentions because they did not attend the September meeting.
3. Ms. Romeo moved to adopt the executive session minutes of September 23 with the changing of the word "committee" to "session"; second by Ms. Cosentino; eight in favor, two abstentions because they did not attend the September meeting.
4. There was no public comment.
5. Ms. Brown noted that the mold remediation in the Archives is complete, and before the new shelves are installed she will request that the room be painted.
6. Ms. Brown noted that because of product shortages and the high increases in tubular steel, the proposed new furniture for the new library space may cost as much as 50% more than originally projected.
7. Ms. Foster, speaking on behalf of the Finance Committee, noted that the expenses to budget is looking good and is being helped by profits from the Library bookstore. She noted that Ms. Brown is starting to consider the 2023 budget, especially with regard to staffing for patron facing positions, and our legal services.
8. Ms. Kelley, speaking as the library representative to the Westchester Library System, noted that in 2023 trustees will be required to complete at least two hours of continuing education. There was, also, discussion about the Mt. Vernon library; it may lose its charter because of problems with its registration. There was, also, discussion about "making more information available" per a new New York State law; Ms. Brown will verify with WLS what this entails.
9. Mr. Grossman, on behalf of Friends of The Library reported that the Friends represented the Library and the Friends at both the Rotary and Irish festivals; and sponsored a talk and book signing by Walt and Jane Daniels. Upcoming is the Friends' annual meeting on November 6; a holiday trivia contest; the Chester Smith award; and author talks. All BOT members who have not yet done so were urged to join the Friends.
10. Ms. Cosentino, on behalf of the nominating committee, indicated that inconsistencies in the bylaws regarding officer and trustee terms should be resolved by the nominating and governance committees. Ms. Cosentino oversaw the assignment of trustee classes based on a random drawing. Terms run from January 1 through December 31.

Mr. Alexander: class 1 ends 2022

Mr. Bloom: class 4 ends 2025  
Ms. Cosentino: class 3 ends 2024  
Ms. Douglas: class 4 ends 2025  
Ms. Foster: class 3 ends 2024  
Mr. Galella: class 2 ends 2023  
Ms. Kelley: class 5 ends 2026  
Mr. Most: class 1 ends 2022  
Ms. Romeo: class 2 ends 2023  
Ms. Smith: class 5 ends 2026

Ms. Cosentino noted that the nominating committee will be developing job descriptions for each of the officers.

Ms. Cosentino oversaw the election of officers to three year terms starting January 1, 2022. Running uncontested was Sandra Smith for President, Alan Most for Vice President, and Mary Foster for Treasurer. Ms. Cosentino moved that the officers be elected as stated; second by Ms. Kelley; nine in favor and one abstention.

Ms. Cosentino oversaw the election of the contested election of Secretary; there were five votes each for Mr. Alexander and Ms. Douglas; Ms. Douglas won the position by a coin toss.

11. There was a discussion about the dissemination of the Library strategic plan. Ms. Brown has already requested time at a Peekskill Common Council meeting and the plan will be included in the November Library newsletter.. It was also suggested that she seek time at the following meetings: Town of Cortlandt, Peekskill City School District, Peekskill Youth Bureau, the Rotary, and the Chamber of Commerce.

12. Mr. Alexander had prepared and disseminated Ms. Brown's review form. Trustees were asked to return the completed forms to Mr. Alexander by October 29.

13. There was a discussion about long term facilities planning. This may include expansion of the mezzanine. The need for fundraising and a grant writer to help with that effort was discussed.

14. Ms. Brown proposed that the Library follow the example of the New York Public Library and eliminate all fines. Ms. Kelly so moved; second by Mr. Bloom; unanimous in favor.

15. Mr. Most moved that the meeting move into Executive Session at 8.37pm; second by Ms. Kelley; unanimous in favor.

16. Mr. Most moved that the Executive session be closed at 8.50pm; second by Ms. Kelley; unanimous in favor.

17. Mr. Most moved that the regular meeting be adjourned at 8.50pm; second by Ms. Kelley; unanimous in favor.