



**Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

**Present:** President Dave Hempson, Vice President Erin McCormack, Treasurer Maura Molnar, Secretary Kathryn Carlson

**Trustees:** Manny Arroyo, Karen Bedard, Ralph DeMasi, Kristin LaBeau, Bob Lotkowictz, Larry Palmieri, Amy Rolleri, Meghann Sandak, Stephen Thomas

**Staff:** Library Director Nickie Marquis, Assistant Director and Adult Services Librarian Andrea Snyder

**Absent:** Katie Armijo, Susanne Guske, Stephen McClintic

**Members of the Public:** Fran McCormack

**Call to order – 6:45 PM**

**Public Comment Period – no comments**

**Approval of the Minutes – Minutes were approved from the meeting held on April 9, 2024**

**President's Report**

Policy Review of recommended policy: "Display of Flags, Banners, Signs and Other Objects"

President Hempson stated that the Governance subcommittee (himself, trustees Kathryn Carlson, Manny Arroyo and Ralph DeMasi, and Library Director Nickie Marquis) has reviewed several policy options and had extensive conversation on the purpose and wording of any policy on this topic. It was felt that the first item that was needed was a value statement that spelled out what the Library and its Board of Trustees valued and considered to be important in the decision-making process. This value statement was discussed and there was no disagreement about it. Trustee Molnar made a motion we accept the value statement as written and trustee Palmieri seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A lengthier discussion was held concerning the proposed policy. Trustee Arroyo explained the legal rationale for the statement that the library does not have to provide equal access to all points of view when the intent is to express its own viewpoint. A trustee asked if the library could just refuse all flag displays except for the United States flag. Yes, it could, but this policy provides the library with the ability to control all kinds of displays and signage on the property. The fact that the library receives some public funding through the annual budget amendment on the school budget vote does not change the library's right to display what it wishes to display while it can disallow requests for access to library property for other points of view. A suggestion was made and accepted to include the addition of the words "...banners, signs and other objects" in all places that mentioned "flags", to be consistent with the policy title. A motion was made by Larry Palmieri to approve the policy as amended, and Bob Lotkowictz seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A discussion was held specifically about the best ways to fulfill the library's desire to make all individuals feel welcome and accepted. In some cases, displaying a flag that was welcoming to some may not be welcoming to others. A display that conveyed the message "All are welcome here" through

verbiage and images could be a more inclusive option. Assistant Director Snyder showed an image that did just that, and she will look into getting samples for us. The Communications Subcommittee was also asked to explore ways to convey that libraries are for everyone.

## **Library Director's Report**

Director Marquis referred the trustees to the monthly report she had submitted (see report). She made one correction in that Baldwinsville never participated in the OnPass fee system. She also reported that Jane Clooney had been hired as a new circulation clerk.

## **Financials**

Treasurer Molnar referred the trustees to her monthly report. Everything is as predicted and on schedule. There is \$684,000 in cash/money market funds for the capital project. Investments have been down slightly this month.

The school budget vote is May 21, 2024 from 7 AM to 9 PM at the district office. Our proposition is for a \$25,000 increase which means that a home assessed at \$400,000 would see a \$4.98 increase and a home assessed at \$800,000 would see a \$9.96 increase. This library receives 73% of its funding from this public vote while other association libraries are at 90+% public funding. All of the library's expenses have increased, including minimum wage and all supplies and operating expenses. There is a FAQ section on the website to go into more depth. The trustees are urged to remind their contacts of the time, date and place of the vote.

## **Fund Raising Committee**

### **Capital Campaign Update**

- Naples Florida Recap - Vice president McCormack stated that the capital fund is almost to \$5 million. Thirty-four people attended the Naples salon event and were enthusiastic. President Hempson reviewed the history and progress of the project and the other representatives urged support by citing the vision and why this new building is needed. As a result, there have been two naming gifts; one for \$150,000 and one for \$100,000. Two more for \$50,000 are in the works. Other participants are being contacted and visited one-on-one. Thanks go out to the Allyn's for hosting. They are ambassadors now. More salons are on deck locally.

### **Newsletter**

- Thanks to Trustees Rolleri and Bedard for their help in refining the newsletter for donors. It was shown to the trustees and will go out electronically to donors this week. It is planned to go out regularly with updates. Thanks to Trustee McCornack for all her work!

### **Political Outreach Public Grants**

- Assistant Director Snyder reported that she has asked for \$3 million from Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. Now there is a wait period while the senators' committees make recommendations to the Senate. Decisions will be made in late summer or early fall. She also asked for \$2 million from Congressman Williams but that is less likely since he has fewer discretionary funds.
- President Hempson said he is in constant contact with every elected official. He will meet with Ed Kochian to see if there is any county money to be had. He has also reached out to state senator Rachel May. County legislator Julie Abbott gave the library a shout-out on an OCPL podcast.
- The library has applied for NYForward money and bullet aid from the state assembly.

## **Communication Committee**

There are no new updates. The last Stroll article was on the eclipse. There will be an advertisement in the next issue about the Mid-Lakes history event.

## **Fennell Street New Building Committee**

### Design Development - Phase 2

- President Hempson is working with the architect Oudens Ello on the cost for the design/development stage. It appears it will cost \$447,000 with a total architect's fee of around 10% of the total building budget cost. Next month the board will be asked to approve the D/D expense. This phase will take about four months. The new building could open December 2026 if the project stays on course at the present rate. President Hempson will meet with the planning board of the village in September. There will still need to be approval of two variances. Thanks to all the hard work of the building committee.

Café – Book Store operation discussion June/July

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM**

## **Public Comment period**

Fran McCormack stated there has been a lot of work done by the Library Board and subcommittees. She asked about OCPL (Onondaga County Public Library) and its funding, which is provided by state and county funds as well as dues from member libraries.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 11th, 2024 6:30 PM — In Person**