



Board of Directors
Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January 14, 2025

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

Trustees: Katie Armijo, Manny Arroyo, Karen Bedard, Ralph DeMasi, Jennifer Feeney, Kristin LaBeau, Bob Lotkowitz, Stephen McClintic, Larry Palmieri, Amy Rolleri, Meghann Sandak

Trustees-elect: Cristina Pietropaoli, Paul Torrisi, Jr.

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

Absent: Susanne Guske

Members of the Public: Kay Bastian, Dimitri Tohtz

Call to order at 6:37pm

Public Comment Period – no comments

President's Report

President Hempson welcomed the new board members and all members introduced themselves.

Looking back on 2024, he thanked the summer and Dickens book sale volunteers for a job well done.

He noted that the fund-raising team for the new building had raised \$5 million so far and the team would be re-energized in the coming year. The Naples and Skaneateles salons brought in a considerable amount of money. There have been good results from grants and foundations. Trustee Arroyo's son has donated scarves he created to sell for the library funds and this has raised \$2000 so far.

He thanked the library staff noting that there were over 76,000 checkouts. There have been 407 programs presented this year.

The building committee, in conjunction with the architects, has finished the schematics and design development phases of the new building design. There has been a geotechnical survey that resulted in a change in plans, eliminating the basement and adding a main floor expansion. The committee has met twice with the Skaneateles Village Zoning Board. The Library Board has been transparent in all its dealings.

The Friends of the Library initiative is getting off the ground.

The communication committee has 15+ members and has worked on many articles for the Stroll magazine and other media.

Three trustees have been added to the board.

Goals for 2025 include continuing the progress toward moving to a new building on Fennell Street. As well-loved as it is, the Genesee Street building is lacking in space, capacity and overall accessibility. We must all be committed to making this happen. We must set the vision for the community. This year we must do more “heavy lifting” out in the community.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Molnar stated that October 31 was the end of our fiscal year and she had made a full report previously. The income was \$480,000, which was \$4500 over budget. Interest rates were up, the Friends of the Library brought in some income, and we had a \$20,000 grant from Assemblyman Lemondes. Expenses were \$516,000, \$16,000 over last year. Salaries, benefits and additions to the collections accounted for the increase. The Capital Campaign collected \$609,000 in actual cash last year, and spent \$240,000.

Director’s Report

Director Marquis referred to her report and noted that the number of checkouts was exceptional and was the highest since 2007 for the second year in a row. There were 222 checkouts of museum and park passes. She will do a summary of income and expenses for the website within the next few weeks. Her goals include collection management projects, especially the reorganization and reclassification of the children’s and adult fiction sections. She will also concentrate on staff training to maintain consistency of communication and interactions.

Fund-Raising Recommendations

Fund-raising Chairperson and Vice-President McCormack handed out a written proposal to reframe the way the fund-raising committee is organized. After consulting with the Executive Committee and her two associates, she would like to step off the board and take on the management of the fund-raising committee as Campaign Director for 20 hours a week at \$25 an hour. Current Campaign Director Mary Morrissey Kerwick will remain engaged as a consultant; Mary is still deeply committed to the project, but she has been unable to devote the time needed due to other obligations. VP McCormack also requests an additional \$20-\$30K/year to hire others to help in this effort, including graphic designers, her previous associates, and others as needed.

She stated that she would help create a powerful vision for the new library to inspire the community: a vision of who we are and what we do as a community. We need to think big and outside the box. Therefore, we need someone to do the work of this communicating and she feels she can do this. We need to spend the money to take care of our current 200+ donors and inspire new donors.

President Hempson stated that he felt she was the right person to deliver the message. A motion was made by Trustee Palmieri to accept the proposal as written, including the resignation of Trustee McCormack, and it was seconded by Trustee Bedard. The motion was approved with 15 ayes, no nays and two abstentions.

Approval of Trustees

A motion was made by Trustee Sandak and seconded by Trustee McClintic to approve the nominations of sitting trustees Carlson, Hempson, Palmieri and Rolleri for another 3-year term. The motion was approved by 13 ayes, no nays and four abstentions.

A motion was made by Trustee Rolleri and seconded by Trustee DeMasi to extend the term of service for Trustee Lotkowitz by an additional year. The motion was approved with 16 ayes, no nays and one abstention.

Approval of Officers

A motion was made by Trustee Lotkowitz and seconded by Trustee DeMasi to approve the following slate of officers: Trustee Hempson-President, Trustee Armijo-Vice President, Trustee Carlson- Secretary, Trustee Molnar- Treasurer. The motion was approved by 13 ayes, no nays and four abstentions.

Review of Committee Assignments and Chairs

President Hempson referred to the list of committee assignments passed out earlier. Trustee Armijo will take the place of Ms. McCormack on the executive committee. Please review and contact President Hempson if there are any other changes.

Meeting Schedule for 2025

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Library. The schedule has been passed out previously. Please add the Annual Meeting on January 13, 2026. Trustee LeBeau made a motion to accept the schedule as proposed and trustee Molnar seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment – none

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7:24 pm.