

Onondaga County Public
*** Libraries**

Learn * Explore * Create

MINUTES

OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting
January 17, 2024
Central library, Board Room
4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

S. Edelstein	T. Mulvey
J. Hurst-Wahl	M. Mahar
E. Kochian	

ABSENT

L. Fetyko	C. Ondrako
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ALSO PRESENT

D. Marmor	S. Rorer
R. Battelle	K. Schellinger
D. Dell	T. Walters
B. Foster	Y. Williams
L. Keller	M. Van Patten
K. Lighton	A. Getz-Eidelhoch
V. Massulik	J. Turo

WELCOME

Mr. Edelstein called the informational meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
(Due to lack of a quorum, this is an informational meeting only).

**PRE-READS/
COMMENTS**

Mr. Edelstein inquired if there were any comments from the Board regarding any of the pre-reads they received.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Marmor reminded everyone that Advocacy Day is on February 7th in Albany. She received the State Fiscal 2024 Executive Budget Briefing Book which includes proposals for spending on libraries in the 2025 fiscal year budget. Operating Aid had an increase of \$2.5 million. The Library Construction Aid was set at \$34 million. There was also a request for \$3 million in funding to help with the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVELny) service, which is a free online library of magazines, newspapers, maps, charts, research, and reference books available to all New Yorkers. It is no longer covered by the state. NYLA has also made it one of their priorities and initiatives.

Ms. Marmor stated that the Annual Report portal should be opening soon. The due date for the report is March 1st.

Ms. Marmor shared that she had been reading how the pandemic affected preschoolers in terms of some of the skills and socialization that they didn't have during the pandemic and how libraries can help in that vein. Some of the preschool Storytime attendees are showing behaviors more consistent with toddler behavior so recommendations are that adjustments be made in library programs in terms of material they are covering to bring it to a level that post Covid preschoolers would be more comfortable with. Ms. Marmor felt libraries are at the forefront of providing those opportunities for socialization that children early in the pandemic didn't have, that normally would have been afforded to them.

Ms. Marmor stated there has been a lot of interest in Children's Librarians and more continuing education on the Science of Reading with ideas on how they can more effectively use some of their collections and how to promote them. Mr. Kochian felt libraries are moving in the right direction.

Ms. Mahar commented on promoting computer technology for senior citizens. She stated that seniors have a desire to learn tech, prefer face to face, and like going to the library based on results from a focus group that was conducted. Ms. Marmor stated the library offers digital navigators and staff who help all ages. She felt what is missing is a way of identifying those opportunities for seniors and marketing them so a senior could easily recognize it's for them and it's what they are looking for. Some suggestions were different things on the website and calendar as well as continuing to develop the Memory Café but a more targeted approach for that age group would be appropriate. More focus is being sought. At this point it is a combined focus that involves communication and outreach as well as the people that do the programming at the library. Ms. Foster offered her assistance with outreach services. Mr. Walters talked about tabling events at senior housing. Ms. Hurst-Wahl mentioned a strategy used by a library in Maryland on "How to Buy an E-Reader" but the information was how to use an E-Reader. Her suggestion was to incorporate something like "What are your kids doing on their phones" to pique the interest of older adults. Mr. Edelstein commented that there are opportunities for collaboration.

Mr. Mulvey asked for an explanation of Evanced. Ms. Massulik defined it as the company that runs our current calendar of events on the website. This applies to member libraries as well and is being discontinued.

Mr. Edelstein inquired about scheduling software demos for the website. Ms. Marmor stated a demo had recently been viewed and a decision would be made soon as to what product to go with.

City Branches:

Mr. Kochian inquired about the Courier de Bois of Ste. Marie program at Central Library. Ms. Lighton explained it was for the monthly genealogy session zoom meeting/programs that people sign up for. He expressed his interest in attending a future meeting.

FOCL:

Ms. Schellinger provided information regarding their Spring Author series. It will kick off on March 19th featuring “Once I Was You” author and prize-winning journalist Maria Hinojosa. The new season will be announced in April. It will be the 30th year. Ms. Mahar mentioned she liked seeing the promotion of books on Instagram.

Communication Report:

Mr. Edelstein gave his congratulations for the awesome Winter Wonderland window. Mr. Walters spoke about the library presence at the recent Crunch Hockey game. There were about 400 people that came to the library table. We were able to provide 3 different families with tickets to a private suite. The suite, owned by a Florida based company, had graciously offered it to these families. Channel 9 ran a story about one of the families. Books were collected for Reading Runway. There were 2 library card sign ups.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl mentioned the Legislative Breakfast at Westhill High School that took place in December. She noted there are new people in the legislature which means new opportunities for the library.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl voiced her approval for Ms. Battelle’s format in her City and Branch Reports. Ms. Battelle thanked her and shared that she was interested in different sections of the city and how different types of elective programming cover those areas.

Mr. Edelstein thanked everyone for their reports.

DISCUSSION

Board President 2024 Priorities

Mr. Edelstein discussed the Strategic Planning Initiative and the Stillwork Service Agreement with details of what they plan to do, including our participation. We will be working on supporting implementation based on recommendations from the initiative. Mr. Edelstein feels everyone needs to help in some way and talked about making a list of volunteers.

Mr. Edelstein asked Ms. Marmor to elaborate a little more on the agreement. Ms. Marmor discussed the following:

Phase 1 – Collection of documents the Stillwork team wants to look at. They would like to form a committee of an even mix of board members and staff members, then create a subset for a smaller committee to design surveys and questionnaires.

Phase 2 – Stakeholders and Member Directors, Focus Groups would be brought in.

Ms. Marmor felt at least 4 board members would be needed to participate. There will be virtual meetings initially.

Ms. Marmor also discussed the time frame for completing each phase.

Ms. Marmor mentioned sending out messages to Members and Staff to provide some information regarding the strategic plan.

Succession Planning

Mr. Edelstein talked about supporting Ms. Marmor and her vision as well as ensuring we have good succession planning. Mr. Edelstein feels organizations need a succession plan for their leaders.

Community Partners

Mr. Edelstein acknowledged that in the short term more board members are needed. He felt finding opportunities for collaboration should be a group effort while at the same time making sure to have a structured approach so that all agree on how to take advantage of opportunities both with elected officials and with other community partners as well.

There was some conversation about setting up a meeting with the County Executive.

Mr. Kochian mentioned the scheduled meeting for the upcoming Petit Renovation project. Mr. Mulvey believes the support of the legislators is important. Ms. Hurst-Wahl and Mr. Kochian suggested setting up an informational meeting with the County Executive.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl commented on the new revised Library Board of Trustees Handbook. She mentioned that it was longer and had larger print. Videos are also available online to view.

Books were circulated for departing Board members.

Mr. Kochian inquired about the purchase of the library vehicle. Ms. Marmor stated an end-of-year request has been made for the vehicle, security cameras, water fountains and a portion of the computer replacement.

Mr. Edelstein ended the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Sharon Rorer
Administrative Assistant

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Beauchamp Branch * Betts Branch * Hazard Branch * Mundy Branch
Paine Branch * Petit Branch * Soule Branch * White Branch