

MINUTES

OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting
October 18, 2023
Central Library, Board Room
4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

S. Edelstein	E. Kochian
L. Fetyko	M. Mahar
J. Hurst-Wahl	T. Mulvey
E. Kassis	C. Ondrako

ABSENT

B. Morgan-Baker

ALSO PRESENT

D. Marmor	B. Foster
S. Rorer	A. Perrine
R. Battelle	T. Walters
J. Bleich	Y. Williams
M. Carter	K. Schellinger
D. Dell	

WELCOME

Ms. Hurst-Wahl called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Hurst-Wahl introduced Sharon Rorer as the new Administrative Assistant. The Board went around the room and introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Fetyko moved the consent agenda, which included the minutes from the August 16, 2023 and September 20, 2023 meeting.

The following resolutions were also included within the consent agenda:

Resolution: 23-15

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application submission to M & T Charitable Foundation for up to \$10,000 to support the 2024 Summer Learning Program.

Resolution: 23-16

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees acknowledges and thanks the Friends of the Central Library for their generous gift of \$20,000, which will support various library needs.

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the application for \$22,000 from the New York State \$34 Million Construction Aid Program FY2023-2029 for the Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville to install EV charging stations; and, be it further

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the application for \$74,399 from the New York State \$34 Million Construction Aid Program FY2023-2029 for the Fairmount Community Library to replace their external wheelchair ramp and stairs, windows, and HVAC unit; and, be it further

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the application for \$605,879 from the New York State \$34 Million Construction Aid Program FY2023-2029 for the Fayetteville Free Library to renovate unfinished space into a children's room; and, be it further

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the application for \$187,500 from the New York State \$34 Million Construction Aid Program FY2023-2029 for the Onondaga County Public Library Hazard Branch to create a new teen space and early literacy center; and, be it further

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the application for \$65,909 from the New York State \$34 Million Construction Aid Program FY2023-2029 for the LaFayette Public Library to install ADA compliant doors and permanent signage; and, be it further

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the application for \$102,038 from the New York State \$34 Million Construction Aid Program FY2023-2029 for the Northern Onondaga Public Library Cicero Branch to renovate the service area and library main space: and, be it further

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the application for \$15,019 from the New York State \$34 Million Construction Aid Program FY2023-2029 for the Tully Free Library to pave their parking lot and driveway.

Allocation: \$1,072,744

Recommended: 100%

Resolution: 23-18

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the 2024 Legal Holiday Calendar as proclaimed by County Executive J. Ryan McMahon II to be observed in accordance with present Federal and New York State Law and Library Closings as follows:

New Year's Day	Monday	January 1
Martin Luther King	Monday	January 15
Lincoln's Birthday*	Monday	February 12
Washington's Birthday	Monday	February 19
Memorial Day	Monday	May 27
Juneteenth	Wednesday	June 19
Independence Day	Thursday	July 4
Labor Day	Monday	September 2
Columbus Day*	Monday	October 14
Veteran's Day	Monday	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 28
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday	November 29
Christmas Day	Wednesday	December 25

*Lincoln's Birthday and Columbus Day will be observed as floating holidays for all non-institutional personnel. All county departments that are scheduled to be open on February 12 will remain open for business as well as on Monday, October 14.

Library Closing

Saturdays

May 25 Memorial Day Wknd
August 31 Labor Day Weekend

Sundays

March 31 Easter
May 26 Mem. Day Wknd
June 16, 23, 30 Summer
July 7, 14, 21, 28 Summer
August 4, 11, 18, 25 Summer
September 1 Labor Day Wknd

Evenings (facilities close at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, November 27 Thanksgiving Eve
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

Other

Friday, May 3 Staff Development Day

Mr. Edelstein seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**PRE-READS/
COMMENTS**

Ms. Hurst-Wahl inquired if there were any comments from the Board regarding any of the pre-reads they received.

President's Report:

Ms. Hurst-Wahl discussed the need for a separate committee to oversee the Director's Evaluation and the lifecycle of the appointment.

Mr. Mulvey suggested that this be part of the Executive Committee's duties. He further suggested that the description of the Executive Committee in the by-laws be amended to include the following concerning the Executive Director:

- Recruitment of an executive director, when needed
- Annual performance evaluation
- Various HR matters
- Review the job description of the executive director

Ms. Ondrako discussed other Board members possibly assisting that group because of their varied backgrounds. Ms. Ondrako suggested adding that the Executive Committee would call on other Board members as necessary. Ms. Hurst-Wahl noted the Executive Committee would be aware they could call on other Board members as necessary without stating it explicitly. She stated she will update the By-Laws and bring it to the November meeting for approval.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl asked if there were any other items to discuss. Mr. Edelstein inquired if there was anything that could be done to fill the vacant Board seats. His concern was that too many vacant seats could affect the quorum status. Ms. Hurst-Wahl stated that resumes have been given to the County Executive's office and formal letters (reminders) have been sent as well. She took an action item to follow-up with the County Executive's office on this.

Board Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Ondrako discussed the updated Investment Policy. She noted an incorrect opinion was obtained in 2015 regarding how Board funds can be invested. Mr. Mulvey clarified that this opinion misconstrued the nature of the funds as being from public sources (i.e., taxes), when OCPL Board funds are not from public sources. Funds from public sources are limited in how they can be invested. This new Investment Policy is a shift back to what was done before 2015. Mr. Mulvey stated this would allow us to take advantage of the economy. The policy further states we are not to be reckless or speculative but that we can attempt to get a decent market return.

MOTION

Resolution 23-20

Mr. Mulvey made the following motion:

Resolved, that the OCPL Board of Trustees recommends the adoption of the Statement of Investment Policy and authorizes NBT Wealth Management to invest our non-public funds in accordance with our adopted policy.

Mr. Kochian seconded; motion passed unanimously.

FOCL:

Ms. Schellinger shared that their next author is Brendon Slocum on November 14th. He is a classically trained violinist, music educator, and author. She is excited to see what the response to this author will be. This is the last program of 2023. The FOCL lectures for the remainder of the season will be in March, April and May 2024. Mr. Kochian asked if Ms. Schellinger had reached out to Symphoria. She said she had, but they are working to get up to speed with their new conductors. Subsequently Ms. Schellinger is looking into getting an inner-city violin student to play with Brendon Slocum on stage. Ms. Schellinger also thanked Ms. Perrine for the lovely introduction of Lily King, the guest author on Oct. 17th.

OCSLD:

Ms. Perrine discussed the OCSLD meeting this month, which included a discussion on Mom's for Liberty. They have been booking meeting rooms at member libraries, which is their right. Some libraries have received concerns about specific books, which community members have the right to do.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl thanked the staff for their reports.

DISCUSSION

Topics:

- a. American Library Association's Support for New York Libraries 2019-2023

Ms. Hurst-Wahl discussed the American Library Association coming under fire for supporting the right to read and the right to have information. Libraries believe that's a right and the ALA supports that. Some municipalities have called for their libraries to no longer be members of ALA. Libraries have lost funding and employees fired for upholding the right to read and the right to have information. The ALA President, Emily Drabinski has come under fire for her personal views. Boards have been passing resolutions of support. The ALA advocates for all libraries across the United States and every state benefits from their advocacy. Ms. Hurst-Wahl stated that, in Onondaga County, our libraries are not under attack yet for maintaining the right to read and the right to information, and are not being asked to pull their membership from ALA. Mr. Kochian offered information on an ALA program in WWI that provided books to soldiers.

RESOLUTION

Resolution: 23-19

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL) states its support for The American Library Association (ALA) in light of the benefits of the work of the association on behalf of OCPL, our member libraries, and the residents of the Onondaga County including:

1. Its national advocacy and policy work that has changed the course of public support for libraries for the better for more than 100 years,
2. Its professional development that has enhanced library services in the profession, and
3. The provision of a platform for the debate of important ideas that have led to standards that call upon libraries to uphold the basic rights of a functioning democracy, including the defense of First Amendment rights.

For these reasons Onondaga County Public Library reaffirms our membership in the American Library Association and our support for its mission to "...to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all."

Mr. Edelstein seconded; followed by a discussion.

Ms. Kassis felt, if challenged, this was an opportunity to listen to the public, their concerns and educate them. Mr. Mulvey asked if there were any formal policies regarding book collections or restrictions. Ms. Marmor stated the policy is posted on the website as part of the Collection Management Policy. Each member library has their own policy. She further stated there are no restrictions as to what can be checked out. In the case of a minor child, Ms. Hurst-Wahl stated parents have the ability to talk with their children about the materials the children check out. It's not the library's responsibility to do that.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Strategic Planning: RFP

Ms. Marmor stated that she, Ms. Battelle and Ms. Morgan-Baker primarily worked together on this. Ms. Marmor met with all the companies via zoom or by phone. She also shared that she received four very good proposals: one was priced higher than she believed OCPL can afford; one was from a firm that seemed to have no library experience; one from a firm which has completed work with libraries in our region; and one was from an organization that has worked with many libraries.

From her assessment, Ms. Marmor has narrowed her list down to two companies, who have the right capabilities and seem to be in our price range. Ms. Hurst-Wahl commented that the costs range from just under \$50,000 to just under \$100,000, including all extra items available in the proposals.

Ms. Marmor felt that the strategic planning process should be started in January, since we are near the end of this year.

Mr. Kochian stated as a matter of principle the decision should not be based on price. He sighted the New York State Finance Law which allows the ability to negotiate professional services. Ms. Marmor agreed and noted that one of the proposals of interest has a negotiation clause. Mr. Kochian offered to read the sample strategic plan.

Mr. Mulvey inquired about the hiring of the consultant. Ms. Marmor stated that the Board has graciously offered to fund the hiring of the consultant. She further explained the different phases involved in strategic planning, and noted that the timetable is 6 to 9 months.

Ms. Ondrako inquired about grant funding. Ms. Marmor explained that she had not found grant funding available for strategic planning for the library. What she found was mainly for cities and larger endeavors. She noted that the state funded community planning, which did not include the library.

OTHER

Vans/Computers

Mr. Kochian shared that when meeting about the 2024 budget, they talked about replacing one of the delivery vehicles. Funding for that is to come from the end of the year County fund balance. He suggested that now would be a good time to follow-up on this.

Mr. Mulvey asked about replacing computers, which was part of the 2024 budget.

Book Bike

Ms. Marmor passed around a picture of the Library Bike, which has been ordered and is funded through a FOCL donation.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Fetyko moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mulvey seconded.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Sharon Rorer
Administrative Assistant

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Phone 315-435-1900 Fax 315-435-8533 www.onlib.org Dawn Marmor, Executive Director

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