

MINUTES
OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting
October 21, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
Virtual ZOOM meeting

ATTENDING

Jill Hurst-Wahl
Marilyn Tucci
Lynnore Fetyko
Edda Kassiss

Ed Kochian
Rich Engel
Tim Dodge
Christina Ondrako

Babette Morgan-Baker
Sam Edelstein

ABSENT

[none]

ALSO PRESENT

Christian Zabriskie
Shauna Modrow
Amanda Perrine
Renate Dunsmore
Ann Horan
Tatiana Sahn
Lauren Cox
Deb Thorna
Linda Ballard

Dawn Marmor
Mary Beth Schwartz
Nickie Marquis
Amanda Schiavulli
Heather Matzel
Dane Dell
Kate Hayduke
Camille DiSanza
Miranda McDermott

Glenna Wisniewski
Mark Carter
Susan Reckhow
Jieun Yeon
Rene Battelle
Jennifer Milligan
Val Massulik
Kim Lighton

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

Consent Agenda: Lynnore Fetyko moved the consent agenda, which included minutes from the September 16 and October 2, 2020 meetings. Tim Dodge seconded; motion passed unanimously. (Edelstein was not present.)

Executive Director's Report: Christian Zabriskie provided an update on his written report and answered questions. The branch pods in the City of Syracuse have started, and staff are adjusting to them. He noted that it is good to see the branches at full staff levels. Because of the

Central Library located at 447 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202-2494
Phone 315-435-1900 Fax 315-435-8533 www.onlib.org Christian Zabriskie, Executive Director

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

need to do contact tracing, library staff are creating a tool in-house for patrons to schedule times at the branches. Zabriskie noted that the County has asked to review the branch reopening plans. The hope is that the buildings can be open for patron use by Nov. 2.

Details are being hammered out with LeMoyne College on using the Soule Branch. Currently the discussion is between the two facilities groups for the County and LeMoyne. LeMoyne wants to use the facility six days per week, including access to the lower level reading room when the library is not open.

Zabriskie has started to visit member libraries again and is restarting the MOU discussion. Member libraries noted that system services have remained good, with no discernible changes. Zabriskie did mention some continued problems at Mundy with the structure (e.g., doors).

When asked about the morale at OCPL, given the staff changes that have occurred, he noted that the morale is currently low.

President's Report and Discussion: Jill Hurst-Wahl asked Tim Dodge to provide information from the Government Relations Committee on Oct. 19. During the pandemic, advocacy is shifting from in-person to online. Dodge reviewed what had been discussed in terms of advocacy. Kochian suggested obtaining feedback from libraries in the different legislative districts we cover. Dodge emphasized gathering stories, a lesson he learned from Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter.

Morgan-Baker noted that COVID-19 is creating more poor people and so we need to gather their stories, recognizing that poverty crosses racial boundaries. In Zoom chat, it was noted that the United Way has recently published its [2020 ALICE Report](#). ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

Kochian suggests that Hurst-Wahl and he reach out to members of the County legislature, including David Knapp, Chairman.

Members noted that we need to tell the story of the budget problem and financial burden that is affecting our libraries. We need to talk to suburban legislators using examples that they will understand. Tucci asked about gathering testimonials from people who use services specific to the Central Library, such as Local History and the Maker Space. Kassis reminded us that libraries are used to support the mental health of the community, for example, as an outlet for parents.

OCPL budget: Mark Carter said that he has increasingly had to work within the current budget. Every requisition submitted to the County is being challenged, even before they are received by Purchasing. If the County does not deem it necessary, it is not approved. Often justification must be provided. He noted that there is no formal austerity budget, but that the cashflow is being managed at the County level.

Christina Ondrako made the following motion: Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves to remove Mark Carter, Administrative Director effective immediately, and retain

Christian Zabriskie, Executive Director; Dawn Marmor, Administrator for Branch/Central Services; Jill Hurst-Wahl, OCPL Board President; and Christina Ondrako, OCPL Board Treasurer authorized to sign checks drawn on the Trustees accounts including, the transfer of funds to/from all Trustees accounts.

Ed Kochian seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Edelstein was not present.)

Onondaga County System Library Directors: There were no questions on the report from Jennifer Milligan.

Transit Report: Amanda Schiavulli provided the report and demonstrated the new [Power BI dashboard](#) for tracking deliveries. The dashboard is being reviewed for accuracy before disseminating. In terms of current deliveries, she noted that Manlius is putting the items they receive through an additional seven-day quarantine.

City Libraries Reports: Dawn Marmor called attention to the recent retirements. City branch managers are now each managing two branches (their pod).

Friends of the Central Library: There was no discussion Kim Schellinger's report.

Review of Board Committee Descriptions: Hurst-Wahl asked the Board to review the descriptions of current Board committees and if any committee should be sunset. This will be discussed in November.

Relationship with County Administration: Tim Dodge feels that OCPL is not being recognized as a more independent body. Sam Edelstein noted that there is a great need for libraries now. This is not business as usual. To the degree that there are metrics or stories that show are importance is critical. Kochian said we need to plan for when there is a vaccine and a new normal, and then get face to face with people to discuss the library. Some of us could plan to meet with the County Executive in the spring to discuss support for OCPL. Babette Morgan-Baker asked that we think strategically about what materials we might provide during these discussions. The current relationship with the County has developed over several OCPL executive directors. We need to work with the County to nurture a more autonomous existence.

Adjourned: Tim Dodge moved to adjourn the meeting with Ed Kochian seconding. Hurst-Wahl adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Jill Hurst-Wahl
Board President