

MINUTES  
OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting  
Nov. 18, 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  
Mark Carter  
Miranda McDermott  
Meg Van Patten  
Renate Dunsmore  
Tatiana Sahn  
Lauren Cox  
Ann Horan  
Linda Ballard

Deb Thorna  
Dawn Marmor  
Carmille DiSanza  
Jieun Yeon  
Rene Battelle  
Amanda Travis  
Becky Maguire  
Katie Hayduke  
Glenna Wisniewski

Dane Dell  
Heather Matzel  
Amanda Schiavulli  
Jen Milligan  
Nickie Marquis  
Kim Sch  
Val Massulik  
Gail Cox

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

**Consent Agenda:** Marilyn Tucci moved the consent agenda, which included minutes from the October 21, 2020 meetings. Christina Ondrako seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report:** Christian Zabriskie provided highlights from his written report.

- Because of infection rates, OCPL has not been able to open the City branches.
- OCPL is in discussion with LeMoyne College, who want to use the Soule Branch when it is closed. However, with an uptick in COVID-19 cases, this is a concern.

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

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

- Some staff are volunteering at COVID-19 testing sites to provide administrative support. They are not administering tests.
- The pod system for the City Branches is working well.
- With changes in the OCPL budget, the book budget has been adjusted.

In response to a question about the suburban libraries, Zabriskie noted that the member council met recently, and that the delivery schedule is always a concern. He said that the group is communicating well.

A question was asked about cataloguing, recognizing that this is an area where all the staff had been furloughed. Zabriskie said that OCPL is staying up to date by using existing staff to do this work, although they are not cataloguers. There is no significant backlog. Marilyn Tucci asked if we should make this (cataloguing) known to the County Executive and the impact of the furloughs. Christian said “yes.” Besides cataloguing, the other areas which are suffering from lack of staff include:

- Delivery to every library in the County
- Communications (print and social media)
- Interlibrary loan (ILL)

Zabriskie noted that they are discovering things each day that are not happening.

Tucci suggested that we create a resolution regarding the areas that have been impacted by the budget cuts. She volunteered to work on a resolution for our next Board meeting.

It was noted that we need to remember the importance of the Central Library’s books budget, which pays for books, databases, and other items which are shared by libraries within the system.

Zabriskie said that a staff town hall was held last Friday and the theme of resilience emerged.

**President’s Report and Discussion:** Jill Hurst-Wahl’s written report had focused on the City branches, which have remained physically closed since mid-March. The discussion focused on the impact this is having on the community, especially given the concentration of poverty in the City, especially within communities of color.

The Board recognizes that there are an increased number of COVID-19 cases in the community, and that it could be problematic to push for the branches to reopen right now. The County had been concerned that the branches might re-open and then need to close because of the budget. However, a plan is in place for the branches to reopen safely and appropriate changes have been made to each building. The buildings have been ready since July.

It was noted that City residents are going to the suburban libraries, because the City branch buildings are not open. Not everyone in the City of Syracuse has the option of traveling to the suburbs to use a library.

There was a discussion on who to advocate for the reopening of the branches, as well as who can be advocating long-term for our libraries. Hurst-Wahl will contact the Deputy County Executive to discuss this issue, and will include Ed Kochian and Christian Zabriskie in the conversation.

**OCPL budget:** Mark Carter said that our 2020 expenses have been impacted by the closures, with OCPL using 50% of what had been budgeted at the start of the year. The third quarter forecast shows a decrease of \$1.8 million due to the part-time positions which were furloughed, a decrease in spending on our security vendors, and other items. Provisions for capital projects will be moved so they can be used for the parking lots at Beauchamp and Hazard Branches, and the Petit Community Room. In terms of State aid, OCPL has received \$1+ million and expects to receive \$300,000 more, with a remaining \$320,000 in flux.

The County Executive has presented his draft of the 2021 budget to the legislature. In that budget, OCPL has \$7 million in appropriations. Some line items were adjusted, but that does not affect the bottom line. The County does want to provide a budget which will allow for fully reopening the City branches by bringing back part-timers. Funding for positions that will not be filled has been taken out of the budget. There was a reduction in the budget for books and materials.

Carter said that the County would like to abolish four unfunded positions. He will be working with Christian Zabriskie and Dawn Marmor on that.

Marilyn Tucci asked about the full-time staff who were furloughed and whether activities like cataloguing would be staff if those furloughed employees return. The answer was “yes,” those activities would be staff again.

There was a question about the salaries in the 2021 budget for the full-time furloughed employees. Carter said that their salaries are budgeted at 9/12 of their normal yearly salary, since the earliest return date would be April 1.

**Onondaga County System Library Directors:** Meg Van Patten mentioned the Baldwinsville Public Library Annual B&N Bookfair, which will take place on Nov. 28 in the store on Rt. 31 and through Dec. 3 online. If you make a purchase mention Baldwinsville so that we will receive a portion of the sales. Van Patten noted that this was Bob Manning’s favorite fundraiser.

**Nominations for the Executive Committee:** Hurst-Wahl called for nominations for executive committee. Currently, Christina Ondrako is willing to remain as treasurer and Marilyn Tucci is willing to run for vice president. Hurst-Wahl is willing to run for either president or secretary. A slate is needed at least 10 days before the December Board meeting.

**Review of Board Committee Descriptions:** No changes were proposed to the descriptions.

**Adjourned:** Lynnore Fetyko moved to adjourn the meeting with & Tim Dodge seconding. Hurst-Wahl adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Jill Hurst-Wahl  
Board President