

MINUTES

OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting

December 15, 2021

ZOOM Virtual Meeting

4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

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

ALSO PRESENT

C. Zabriskie	A. Horan	A. Bernat
G. Cox	K. Lighton	C. DiSanza
L. Ballard	R. Maguire	H. Matzel
R. Battelle	D. Marmor	J. Milligan
M. Carter	S. Modrow	S. Reckhow
L. Cox	A. Perrine	K. Schellinger
D. Dell	M. Roche	A. Travis
O. Edwards	A. Schiavulli	M. Van Patten
K. Hayduke	A. Ali	G. Wisniewski

WELCOME

Ms. Hurst-Wahl called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Kochian moved the consent agenda, which includes the minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Fetyko seconded; motion passed unanimously.
(Mr. Mulvey was not present at the time of the vote.)

**PRE-READS/
COMMENTS**

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

Mr. Zabriskie reported on the following topics from his report.

Executive Director's Report

- Senator Ryan's Listening Tour for Libraries:
Senator Ryan has been stopping at libraries throughout the State to hear directly from library staff and advocates about their priorities

and needs for their libraries. Senator Ryan stopped by the Beauchamp Branch library on December 14th. He was accompanied by Assembly Libraries Chair, Kimberly Jean-Pierre.

In addition to Mr. Zabriskie, also in attendance were: Assembly member Pamela Hunter; Senator Rachael May; Senator John Mannion; Ossie Edwards, Beauchamp; Marc Wildman, CLRC; Glenna Wisniewski, Liverpool; Mandy Travis, NOPL; Jen Milligan, Manlius; and Mark Carter, OCPL Administration.

Topics:

- Using the one time federal funding/grants to put towards funding capital improvement projects.
- Expansion of WIFI footprint
- Equity for e-books for libraries.

Mr. Kochian recommended a follow-up letter from the board be sent to those in attendance showing the Board's support and reinforce the topics discussed.

➤ Literacy Coalition:

Mr. Zabriskie spoke about his meeting with them and what the Literacy Coalition is trying to accomplish going forward and how the library may fit in.

There was discussion of possibly having a coalition from Cortland run the Literacy Coalition.

The library has partnered with Literacy Coalition in the past for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

➤ Organizational Change:

Mr. Zabriskie stated he is continuing to look at ways to get at the deeper issues of organizational culture of OCPL and how we can work together to address them.

President's Report

Ms. Hurst-Wahl highlighted the following items from her report:

- Why being a "liaison" to a City branch would need to be different than our role with the suburban libraries since we are the Board for the city branches.
- List of items she believes the Board should work on in 2022.

OCPL's Financial Report

- Unencumbered funds will be mostly used by interdepartmental charges that will be coming down by the end of the year

- Things to think about with the budget keeping strategic planning in mind as we move forward
 - What lessons did we learn this year that we can apply for the upcoming year
 - Staffing: filling positions
- Unspent Funds: goes back into the library's operating fund balance
- Grants: 20% that was cut in 2020 was redistributed in 2021

Library Operations Report

- Incident Reports: which is the most critical in terms of impact, hassle etc.
 - Any that involve violence, verbal abuse, harassing/stalking or any sexual component

There was a brief discussion on having stats pulled together from 2019 and 2021 to compare circulation and head count.

City Branches' Reports Overview

- Central:
 - Statistics showed we had 3,766 visitors in November
 - Happenings: part of a movie was filmed at the Central library on level 3.
- Branch Highlights:
 - Covered hires and excerpts from the various branches on what is happening in their library
 - Amanda Perrine, Soule Branch Manager is one of the recipients of the CNY Business Journal's 40 under 40 award

Member Services Report

- Transit Report: Ms. Schiavulli stated things are moving along towards pre-COVID delivery.
 - There was a brief discussion on 3-5 days being an optimum turnaround time for items in transit.
- Billboard Advertisement: part of a grant we didn't complete with COVID last year and now that we are open to the public again, we can post one for this year

OTHER

Ms. Hurst-Wahl asked if there are any additional items to add to the agenda.

Mr. Edelstein stated an executive session needed to be added at the end of the meeting.

DISCUSSION

Topic: Defense of Intellectual Freedom

(e.g., collection development, book challenges, etc.)

- Mr. Zabriskie explained the materials challenges that are happening mostly in school libraries. However, due to social media platforms they are expanding nationally to public libraries as well. He felt this would be a good time to discuss what is happening in libraries, what processes we already have in place and any other preparations we should put in place.

Mr. Zabriskie commented that both ALA and NYLA powerful statements regarding intellectual freedom.

Mr. Kochian read an excerpt from NYLA's position statement on the defense of intellectual freedom. Below includes the whole statement.

The New York Library Association (NYLA) reaffirms its commitment to protecting and upholding intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. We advocate for the rights of all patrons to access information on a variety of topics and viewpoints without restrictions, which is a fundamental act of participation in a democracy.

With the increasing number of challenges, especially for books regarding race and LGBTQ+ communities, New York's school libraries and librarians are being pressured to censor and restrict access to information. Parents have the right to set restrictions for their own children, but no person or group has the right to deny access to all readers. This principle applies equally to the free access of information in other types of libraries as well.

Libraries are unique institutions of education and knowledge that provide information with impartiality and balance. Library materials are carefully selected by professionally trained librarians to represent a broad range of ideas and opinions and appeal to the needs and interests of all members of their communities. In a democratic society, partisan disagreements cannot dictate the decision to remove such materials.

Mr. Kochian felt this is something we could use, if ever needed down the road.

The Board discussed the positive impact it would have for libraries, staff and those who feel marginalized to support the NYLA intellectual freedom statement.

MOTION

Mr. Kochian made the following motion:

Resolution: 21-41

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees supports the NYLA statement on the defense of intellectual freedom.

Mr. Edelstein seconded, a discussion followed.

Motion passed with 8 yeas (Kochian, Edelstein, Hurst-Wahl, Fetyko, Mulvey, Morgan-Baker, Ondrako, Mahar) and 1 nay (Kassis).

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Amanda Perrine, Soule Branch Manager

Ms. Perrine gave the following highlights on her background and as the manager at the Soule Branch library.

- Manager for nearly 1 year at Soule branch
- Came to OCPL as the Betts branch manager in March 2020
- Previously the Maxwell Library director
- Community involvements: Junior League, NYLA- Leadership and Management section, Western NY Genealogical Society
- Branch manager responsibilities and goals she would like to obtain at Soule
 - Number one responsibility- is about the staff and the patrons
 - Has quarterly staff meetings and training that cover:
 - a. Team building
 - b. OCPL staff presentation (outside of Soule staff) on their role within the organization
 - c. Goal setting and strategy for Soule using the following priorities:
 - i. Programming/Marketing
 - ii. Collections
 - iii. Patron Experience/Outreach
 - iv. Building & Grounds
 - v. Professional Development
 - d. Individual goal setting (kept confidential between staff member and the manager)

Ms. Perrine elaborated on some of the types of programs and patron services her location offers to her community and the sharing of professional development opportunities for her staff.

Mr. Kochian stated how the Board greatly appreciates Ms. Perrine's enthusiasm.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution: 21-38

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees elects Jill Hurst-Wahl to the office of President; Sam Edelstein to the office of Vice-

President; Edda Kassis to the office of Secretary; and Christina Ondrako to the office of Treasurer of OCPL Board of Trustees for the year 2022.

Ms. Morgan-Baker seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 21-39

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the following expenditures from the Unrestricted Board Designated Fund:

\$150.00 for the 2022 Cathedral Square Neighborhood Assoc. membership;

\$530.00 for the 2021/2022 CenterState CEO membership;

\$60.00 for 2022 NYCON membership (New York Council of Nonprofits);

\$2,500 for the 2022 NYLA organizational membership;

\$600 for the 2022 membership to LTA (Library Trustees Association);

\$1,781.00 for the 2022 excelsior membership to the New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) to provide enhanced collaborative advocacy for library systems at the State level;

\$700 for the 2022 Ossie Golden/Trustees' Award (\$500) and reception (\$200); and;

\$5,000 for the Executive Director's Travel, Training, and Meeting Account;

\$6,000 to support staff attendance at conferences and workshops;

\$4,000 to the Director's Community Relations Account;

\$2,000 to the Meals and Refreshment Account; and

Up to \$750.00 to cover the expenses for refreshments and speakers for 2022 Staff Development Day.

Total: \$24,071

Mr. Edelstein seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 21-40

Ms. Ondrako moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application submission to the CLRC Initiative Grant for up to \$1,500 for

creation of a monthly Teen Book Box service for grades 6-12 for OCPL:
City.

Ms. Fetyko seconded; a discussion followed.
The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Edelstein made the following motion:

Be it Resolved, that per Section 105 of the Public Officers Law, this board shall now move into executive session for purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person.

Mr. Mulvey seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Board entered executive session at 5:16 pm. No action taken.
At 5:54, Mr. Kochian made the motion to leave executive session.
Mr. Morgan-Baker seconded, motion passed unanimously.
Board reconvened open session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kochian moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mulvey seconded.
Ms. Hurst-Wahl adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Gail M. Cox
Administrative Assistant