

Onondaga County Public
*** Libraries**

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MINUTES

OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting

February 21, 2024

Central Library, Board Room

4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

S. Edelstein

L. Fetyko

J. Hurst-Wahl

E. Kochian

M. Mahar

B. Morgan-Baker

T. Mulvey

C. Ondrako

ALSO PRESENT

D. Marmor

R. Battelle

M. Carter

D. Dell

B. Foster

R. Maguire

V. Massulik

S. Rorer

K. Schellinger

T. Walters

Y. Williams

M. Van Patten

A. Getz-Eidelhoch

WELCOME

Mr. Edelstein called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Feytko moved the consent agenda, which includes the minutes from the December 13, 2023 and January 17, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**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 stated that she and Mr. Carter met with the Facilities Committee to present the library's year end transfer request for water fountains in three locations, the remainder of the computer replacement project, security cameras at Beauchamp, and the vehicle. The next step is meeting with Ways & Means. Then the Legislature will vote on those requests in early March.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl inquired about Advocacy Day.

Ms. Marmor responded that the library had representation there and it was a good turnout. NOVELny was discussed at the meeting and the \$3 million in funding allocated by our Governor to keep it going.

Mr. Kochian asked about the Memory Café. Ms. Marmor stated that seeking to focus on services for older adults and looking at different ideas to plan different activities is the goal. During the pandemic it was discovered that older people have more isolation. The library can provide socialization and resources for older adults. Programs will be offered at different branch locations in the hopes of attracting older adults who are interested in some socialization and different resources. It is still in the planning stages. Ms. Marmor mentioned there are some local Memory Cafes that are specifically designed for people diagnosed with Alzheimer's and their care givers. She stated our library is taking a more general approach focusing on resources such as large print books. Ms. Morgan-Baker suggested looking at data from county assessment reports that deal with socialization and social isolation.

President's Report:

There was a discussion regarding the appointment of new board members. Ms. Morgan-Baker expressed her concerns regarding diversity and whether candidates would reflect our community.

OCSLD Report:

Mr. Edelstein mentioned that the Strategic Plan had been discussed in their meeting. There were questions regarding involvement and feedback. Mr. Edelstein explained that we are still in the beginning stages.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl wanted to recognize Meg Van Patten, Director of Baldwinsville Public Library. She will be retiring in October after 48 years of service. Everyone expressed their congratulations.

FOCL Report

Ms. Schellinger stated that the Spring Author series starts up again March 19th. They will be hosting Maria Hinojosa, author, and prize-winning journalist. She has written a memoir "Once I was You" which talks about her migration with her family from Mexico to Chicago and her amazing career. February is also Library Lovers month. There have been a lot of social media posts and things the library offers to their followers on social media. The response has been great. A FOCL book club is also being launched. These will be held at Salt City Market in advance of the lectures.

Branch & Central Reports:

Mr. Kochian commented on the statistics listed in the report. He would like to look at trends. Mr. Edelstein felt the statistics would be useful for strategic planning as well.

Ms. Battelle shared they are focusing on collective programming among the

branches. This would include the Memory Café. She mentioned there is one at the Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church in Dewitt which she attended in January. The people were very receptive and are looking forward to programs at the library. The library is expecting to launch their monthly programs in the Spring at Betts and Hazard and at other branches in the future. Ms. Hurst-Wahl suggested a partnership or getting information for the Memory Café from OASIS.

The MakerSpace in Central is open again. Mr. Lahiri is the new MakerSpace Librarian. Ms. Batelle felt he is doing an excellent job organizing it, making the technology run smoothly and running several different programs. Mr. Kochian inquired about the 3D printers.

Library Information Systems Services

Dr. Dell wanted to acknowledge and recognize his team that is often working behind the scenes. Ms. Hurst-Wahl and Mr. Edelstein expressed their appreciation for his team. Mr. Edelstein mentioned from reading the report, the team is externally focused to support people as they come in and internally focused on things such as making sure email is working and identifying security risks on both ends. Mr. Edelstein mentioned he had spoken to Dr. Dell about survey information. He felt it would be useful for the strategic plan. It could include identifying places that are being seen for support. Where is it going to be needed? Where is movement being observed from what the communities are demanding of things they support, and what it will take to support the staff to make sure they can provide what they need for community follow-up.

Communications Report

Mr. Edelstein inquired about the metrics and demographics of the people most engaging with the library. He stated the surveys that will happen during the strategic planning process are meant to go to people that are not necessarily coming to the library on a day-to-day basis. He asked how we can better engage people that are not coming to the library regularly. Mr. Walters said his team participates in the Downtown Farmers Market and suggested doing a small survey regarding regular library visits.

Library Operations Report

Mr. Kochian commented on the number of incidents in the library. Workplace violence was discussed.

DISCUSSION

Strategic Plan

Mr. Edelstein talked about participation in the strategic planning process. He stated there are specific committees that will be a little bit more involved. There will be partnerships between staff as well as the Board in terms of setting priorities. He is asking that there be Board Members involved in a Strategy Team which will involve meetings every couple of weeks for the next few months. It will be a large time commitment. There are several videos for the strategic plan from Stillwork Consulting that will introduce what the process will look like, such as the four pillars that support an organization. Topics for discussion could include how

the board best supports the organization and how they represent the community. Mr. Edlestein will send those to the board for viewing. He mentioned that Ms. Marmor provided Stillwork Consulting with previous surveys and data from past strategic plans. He invited the members to come up with ideas of things to provide that might be helpful as well. Mr. Edelstein noted that Stillwork Consulting worked with Fayetteville Free Library previously and will ask them for a copy of that plan and provide it to the board. Ms. Morgan-Baker encouraged the Board Members to be part of the process.

Board Retreat

Mr. Edlestein indicated that part of the strategic plan is to have a retreat which is going to take some planning. This will be discussed later.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution: 24-01

Mr. Kochian moved the following amended resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves to remove Jill Hurst-Wahl, former OCPL Board President effective immediately; and add Sam Edelstein, OCPL Board President; retain Dawn Marmor, Executive Director; René Battelle, Administrator for Public Services and Special Initiatives; and Christina Ondrako, OCPL Board Treasurer as authorized to sign checks drawn on the Trustees accounts including, the transfer of funds to/from all Trustees accounts.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 24-02

Ms. Hurst-Wahl moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application submission for a CLRC Catalyst Grant for up to \$1,000 to fund an inclusive Community Gaming series at Soule Branch Library.

Ms. Fetyko seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 24-03

Ms. Ondrako moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application submission for a TNT Special Projects Grant for up to \$550 to fund a 2024 summer music program at Paine Branch Library.

Mr. Kochian seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 24-04

Ms. Morgan-Baker moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application submission for a Literacy Coalition Champions Grant for up to \$5,000 to purchase new books in the Early Reader collection as well as training our librarians in the Science of Reading in Central and all city branches.

Mr. Kochian seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Edelstein adjourned the meeting at 4:51 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