

MINUTES
OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting
April 17, 2024
Beauchamp Branch Library
4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

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

ABSENT

C. Ondrako	B. Morgan-Baker
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ALSO PRESENT

D. Marmor	S. Rorer
R. Battelle	K. Schellinger
M. Carter	T. Walters
O. Edwards	M. Bilbo Coughlin
R. Maguire	M. Kuhn
A. Perrine	

WELCOME

Mr. Edelstein called the meeting to order at 4:02p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Hurst-Wahl moved the consent agenda, which includes the amended minutes from the March 20, 2024 and April 9, 2024 meetings.

Mr. Kochian wanted to note a minor correction in the March minutes. When referenced to meeting with the County Executive the minutes stated Mr. Kochian suggested bringing programs into the library such as LEAD and Public Health Nurses. The specific programs were the suggestion of the County Executive.

Mr. Kochian seconded; 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 wanted to acknowledge the good representation at the conferences. The Public Library Association in Ohio had several Directors from the System

attend. Ms. Marmor attended virtually. Spring on the Hill in Albany is coming up as well as the Youth Services Section of NYLA conferences with several staff planning to attend. The conferences fit well with the increased focus on training. Ms. Marmor is pleased that staff are taking advantage of the opportunities.

Ms. Marmor thanked everyone involved in getting the Annual Report together.

President's Report:

Mr. Edelstein stated that four new Board members have been appointed. Final paperwork is in process, and they should be ready to start in May.

Mr. Mulvey inquired about keeping on track with AI. Mr. Edelstein explained that cities around the country are looking at policy and opportunities connecting with different organizations. Mr. Edelstein referenced Dr. Dell's report on opportunities to help libraries, such as making staff more efficient, generating an email more quickly. He would like to make it available to people who do not have access to it, perhaps offering it in MakerSpace.

Mr. Edelstein talked about working on a list of policies that need to be updated.

FOCL Report:

Ms. Schellinger reported huge ticket sales and stated they are ending the season strong. The next season will be announced on April 30th.

Branch & Central Reports:

Ms. Mahar asked about the lower program attendance in the libraries. Ms. Marmor has discussed this with Ms. Battelle who is working with a team to put together more collaborative programs that are shared between the City Branches with the hopes it will raise attendance. Mr. Edelstein mentioned that with higher attendance, circulation benefits, there is more computer use. He noted that digital circulation has gone through the roof. Ms. Hurst-Wahl recognized that digital circulation is more expensive. As digital circulation goes up the collection costs go up. Mr. Mulvey suggested addressing those costs for the 2025 budget. Mr. Edelstein requested putting together a data ask.

Ms. Mahar inquired about the amount of 911 calls. Ms. Maguire stated that it is very important that the library is seen as a safe place for a person to come in and make an emergency response phone call. She felt that it is another service the library provides, having an accessible phone for someone to make a 911 call. She feels the library is part of a solution for that.

Mr. Edelstein thanked everyone for the reports.

DISCUSSION

Strategic Plan Updates – Heidi Holtz

Ms. Holtz explained the Strategic Plan has three parts. We are in the

Assessment Phase which is the first part. It looks at the current capacity of OCPL. The leadership team comprised of six staff members and three Board members meet every other week. They are looking at the specific capacity areas, programs, governance, management, financial health, business model, administrative system, and policies. The next step is the Discovery Phase. It includes conducting interviews, surveys, focus groups, listening to community, staff, and governance. Once the data is collected a team will work to identify the primary pathways, objectives, goals and what specific action steps will be taken. Mr. Edelstein and Ms. Holtz reminded everyone to complete the survey and encouraged more Board involvement.

Mr. Edelstein asked for comments from the Board. Ms. Hust-Wahl is pleased with the conversations from the meetings and liked hearing different perspectives. Ms. Marmor agreed with Ms. Hurst-Wahl regarding the good conversations. She felt the discussions were open and honest with a sense of energy and excitement and a smooth process to date.

Mr. Edelstein explained the next steps. The plan is to send out the public facing survey. He expressed his desire for good coverage of people around the community, including those that are not familiar with the library. He felt everyone has connections within the community and encouraged those connections. Ms. Marmor explained the plan is to target those that use the library frequently, infrequently, and non-users. With the help of the Communications team, they have identified some areas for outreach. There will be QR codes, links to the survey on the Library and County websites as well as VisitSyracuse. There will be fliers and digital signs in all city library locations as well as information at Reading Runway and other locations. A tabling event is planned at Destiny Mall. Mr. Mulvey suggested a reporter do a story on “The Library Wants to Know What you Think”. Ms. Mahar suggested a table at the Regional Market.

PRESENTATION

Ossie Edwards gave a very informative presentation about the South Side community and its future.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution: 24-10

Ms. Hurst-Wahl moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the submission of the 2023 State Annual Reports for the Onondaga County Public Library: for Public and Association Libraries and the Onondaga County Public Library: for Public Library Systems.

Mr. Mulvey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 24-11

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees accepts the grant funds of \$1,000 from CLRC (Catalyst Grant) to fund an inclusive Community Gaming series at Soule Branch Library.

Ms. Fetyko seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 24-12

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees accepts the grant funds of \$8,334 from the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County 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.

Ms. Fetyko seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 24-13

Ms. Fetyko moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application to the CLRC Eclipse grant in the amount of \$260 to fund a Solar Eclipse educational program at Central Library.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl seconded; motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Edelstein adjourned the meeting at 5:04p.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