

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

TCPL Board Members Present: Melisa Sidle, President; Blixty Taetzsch, Jason Moore, Liam Murphy, Lis Chabot, Shelley Wong, Kathy Weinberg

Board Members excused: Marli Stahler, Jamila Walida Simon, Nina Scholtz, Darrel Long, Mimi Campbell

Also Present: Leslie Tabor, Director; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Michelle Benjamin, Business Manager; Laura Larson, TCPL Foundation Board President;

With a quorum, meeting convened at 4:06 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 24-08

A **MOTION** was made by S. Wong and seconded by B. Taetzsch to approve the agenda with the addition of Bylaw discussion. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rebecca Costello – referenced a prior meeting, several people expressed concerns with the weeding. We love the library, but it feels like it is us vs. them. We are not anti-progress, not against the switch we want a quiet space for our kids to read.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2024, MINUTES DOC 24-06

A **MOTION** was made by J. Moore and seconded by S. Wong to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixty Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #3 dated 2/8/24 and #4 dated 2/22/24 totaling \$126,750.57. I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment February 2024 bills in the amount of \$219,864.49 as listed in Abstracts #4, #5 and #6.

2023 YEAR END BUDGET AMENDMENTS DOC 24-07

Approved unanimously.

2024 BUDGET AMENDMENTS DOC 24-08

Approved unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NYS ANNUAL REPORT DOC 24-09

Accepted unanimously.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Lis Chabot recommended for Melisa Sidle whose current term ended, for a three-year term. Chabot also recommended the following for a three-year term; Mimi Townsend, Kathy Weinberg and Darrel Long. Approved unanimously.

#### BYLAW DISCUSSION

M. Sidle led an in-depth discussion regarding the bylaws and the changes the county recommended. The county wants consistency across all the county advisory boards. A brief discussion ensued.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tabor announced we received an Opioid Settlement Grant of \$37,00 for educational resources in our collection, related programs Narcan training for the public and a vending machine for Narcan, fentanyl test strips and menstrual supplies. We are the frontline, unfortunately we have seen our fourth overdose in the last six months. Tabor stated we review Narcan, Active Shooter training and review our mission at our monthly staff meetings.

#### LIAISON REPORTS

**Foundation** – Laura Larson, TCPL Foundation Board President spoke on behalf of Kerry Barners, TCPL Foundation Executive Director. Kerry and Leslie visited Kendal on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> and Leslie was a bona fide hit. Kerry received this note from a donor living at Kendal:

“Thanks so much for your friendly note.

We were sorry to miss Leslie Tabor's talk on January 26. However, we discovered that it is available to watch on channel 1340, our Kendal TV channel. We watched Leslie's interesting and informative talk **twice**. We plan to learn how to use Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

Libraries are important. We are happy to have our small Kendal library. In addition, we are thrilled to have TCPL and all the resources it makes available.

The TCPL Foundation is important too. We hope you have a great year in 2024 for library activities and fundraising.”

The Foundation Events Committee met for the first time, did some brainstorming, and are putting plans in place for our first Silent Reading Party to be held in April at Argos Warehouse. More details to come!

Dominick Recckio, Foundation Board member and County Communications Director, met with Leslie, Kerry, Susanna, Department Heads, and Mary to discuss Library communications. On his recommendation, Kerry attended the monthly Communications Roundtable that Dominick hosts

for County staff in communications roles. She will continue to attend until a library staff person is selected to attend.

The Foundation Board held a successful retreat on Friday, Feb. 9 that delved into organizational history, roles, relationships, strategic planning, and mission statement rethinking.

Kerry successfully reconnected with a major donor who had not been communicated with for some time (notes to the donor were returned “unable to deliver” and there was no contact info outside of a mailing address on record for him.) After a lively and enjoyable video chat, the Foundation and the donor are looking forward to new ways to stay in touch and share the impact his gift has had on the Library and community. Another major donor is scheduled to join Kerry, Leslie, and Library staff to discuss the impact of their fund and future gift restrictions.

The Finance Committee met with our new representative at Tompkins Financial to discuss our investment strategy.

The Rosen Fund grant for Summer Reading Programs has been submitted. We now cross our fingers and wait for good news.

As suggested by a long-time donor and former Foundation board member, Kerry and Susanna are crafting an op/ed piece on libraries that will be signed by Foundation Board President Laura Larson and Library Trustees President Melisa Sidle.

The Foundation’s audit is progressing quickly and in its final stages. Working with Kurt Behrenfeld has been a pleasure.

**Friends** – The friends are working on getting Narcan training. Weinberg said they are looking to expand their services to getting foreign language books to teachers or patrons who would enjoy books in their native languages and expand beyond Tompkins County not-for-profits. We are working on finding someone to manage their social media. The friends updated their tote bags, which you can purchase at the circulation desk.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by S. Wong and seconded by B. Taetzsch to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:27 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and board orientation. There being no further business, a **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by K. Weinberg to end Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by L. Chabot and seconded by S. Wong to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 pm. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by S. Wong and seconded by B. Taetzsch to adjourn at 5:32 pm.  
Approved unanimously.

Recorded by Mary McKeon  
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Liam Murphy  
Secretary