

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 22, 2019

TCPL Board Members Present: Ken McClane, President; Luca Maurer, Don Trotter, Blix Taetzsch, Anthony Martinez, Liam Murphy, Kristine Altucher, Nina Miller, Nina Scholtz, Thompson Terry, Shelley Wong, Jamie Loehr

Board Members Excused: Martha Hardesty, Jason Moore, Ingrid Jensen

Also Present: Annette Birdsall, Library Director; Mary McKeon, Admin. Asst.; Suzanne Smith Jablonski, Foundation Executive Director; Amanda Champion, County Legislator

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

With a quorum now present, meeting convened at 4:01 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 19-01

A **MOTION** was made by K. Altucher and seconded by T. Terry to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2019 DRAFT MINUTES DOC 19-02

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

I, Treasurer, Thompson Terry, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payrolls #1 dated 1/3/19 and #2 dated 1/17/19 totaling \$113,440.49. 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 January 2019 bills in the amount of \$151,005.53 as listed in Abstracts #1, #2 and #3.

APPROVAL OF THE LENDING GUIDELINES POLICY DOC 19-03

Approved unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Dates for 2019 meetings and new access codes were distributed, along with a Committee roster for review. Director Birdsall shared plans for training videos beginning in March, and informed Board of President McClane's invitation to staff to give brief presentations at upcoming Board meetings.

She sought approval to cancel the February Board meeting to attend the Pre-Advocacy/Advocacy activities in Albany on behalf of the Library. Thus, there will be no February Board meeting. Invoices are on the agenda for the February Finance committee and bills will be ratified at the March meeting.

Director Birdsall presented 2018 statistics for review, and noted that circulation, library visits, programs and attendance are all on the rise.

She shared that the soft launch of TCPL's fine free initiative has been a perfect opportunity to highlight the importance of access in our community. While being open on the coldest days has been appreciated by those seeking shelter and haven.

Her 2019 goals will still include working toward removing barriers to access and reviewing policies, programs and procedures through both lenses of diversity and accessibility. Other 2019 priorities include a book return for the Cayuga Street side of the building, updating the worn fabric furnishings, developing the strategic plan and working toward the bookmobile with the rural library directors.

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Smith Jablonski reported that all funding requests presented to the Foundation by Annette on behalf of the trustees had been approved by the Foundation Board of Directors at its January 7 meeting. She encouraged trustees to respond to the invitation to attend the Library Lovers Month Donor Appreciation Brunch on February 3, and circulated "I am a Library Lover" buttons for trustees to take for personal use and to pass along. Smith Jablonski reported that publicity for the fine-free initiative would be launched February 4.

LIAISON REPORTS

Friends – D. Trotter stated the Friends are taking donations for the Spring booksale.

County – A. Champion spoke to a few Legislators about the idea of the tax referendum and is safe to say that the Legislature highly values TCPL and wants to continue funding it as much as we can. We have no foreseeable plans to reduce funding. If there is some kind of economic downturn ahead, like what we experienced in 2008-2009, it could happen that the County would have less money to give the library. So, it makes sense for the board to keep the idea of a tax referendum as an option and not dismiss it entirely.

Additionally, Martha Robertson suggested that there will likely be some kind of County task force regarding the census, which should include TCPL. She said there may be funds to assist in the census taking efforts.

MOTION to adjourn by K. Altucher and seconded by T. Terry at 4:55 PM. Approved unanimously.

Recorded by Mary McKeon
Assistant Admin.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Mary McKeon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and "K".

Endorsed by Luca Maurer
Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luca Maurer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "L" and "M".