

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 22, 2022

TCPL Board Members Present: Martha Hardesty, President; Blixey Taetzsch, Liam Murphy, Don Trotter, Nina Scholtz, Jason Moore, Melisa Sidle, LaWanda Cook
Shelley Wong, Nina Miller

Board Members Excused: Ingrid Jensen

Also Present: Teresa Vadakin, Interim Director; Michelle Benjamin, Business Manager; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Kerry Barnes; TCPL Foundation Director

With a quorum now present, meeting convened at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 22-21

A **MOTION** was made by L. Murphy and seconded by N. Miller to approve the agenda with the addition of Bylaws Working Group Report. Approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022 DRAFT MINUTES DOC 22-22

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

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixey Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #5 dated 3/10/22 and #6 dated 3/24/22 totaling \$97,111.84. 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 March 2022 bills in the amount of \$217,668.83 as listed in Abstracts #7, #8 and #9.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

Assistant Director, Vadakin reported on National Library week– April 3-8. This included discounts to local businesses, a gift card from DIA, pizza and a proclamation that was shared at the legislative meeting on April 5. Vadakin, Susan Currie, Lis Chabot and Kerry Barnes plan to attend the meeting to accept the proclamation. Vadakin extended a thanks to the Foundation Board for planning such an eventful week for the staff of the library to recognize all that they do for the community.

Vadakin also spoke about the Spirit of Tompkins project and that the library will be participating. Spirit of Tompkins is a collaboration between Ithaca's Discovery Trail, the Town of Ithaca, and photographer Robyn Wishna, and aims to capture hundreds of portraits and stories from individuals and groups living or working in Tompkins County.

Spirit of Tompkins is inspired by the work of photographer Verne Morton who captured life and work in the Groton area more than a hundred years ago. Participants choose their own place to be photographed and are asked to provide a short explanation of why they chose that place. They are also videotaped talking about their chosen site. Their words and video are displayed alongside their portrait on the Spirit of Tompkins website. In Fall 2022, Spirit of Tompkins plans to begin production of a book which will include the entire collection of portraits and recognize all sponsors and community partners.

Vadakin, shared the news that Telehealth is in its final planning stages and that the library partnered with HSC and Cayuga Virtual Care. Two HSC Community Health Workers will be helping people access telehealth and as well as helping patrons sign up for health care options through NY state.

The staff is busy with programming for spring. Highlights include a Robot Battle, Babies and Books is moving outside in April, we have partnered with the YMCA and there is gentle yoga and a cardio dance class, the Non-Fiction book club is back hosted by Asia and Woody. They are reading and discussing, Killers of the Flower Moon by David Gran this month. There is also quilt making for Hospicare where participants will make a small (3'X4') quilt top using improvisational quilting techniques, which will be finished by quilters into a wheelchair appropriate sized quilt for donation to Hospicare of Ithaca.

Vadakin reported about our first few Sundays and shared that there will be a banner let patrons and community members know we are open. She shared that the previous Sunday we had 128 visitors and the previous Sunday we circulated 358 items

LIAISON REPORTS

Foundation – K. Barnes shared that the Foundation board has offered her the Executive Director position and she has accepted. She will officially begin April 1st, which is not an April Fool's joke, but timed to coincide with the beginning of the 2nd quarter financially.

The Foundation's audit has been completed and will be voted to be accepted at the April 4th meeting.

Readathon 2022 is in full swing, but there's still room for reader/ fundraisers, as well as sponsored groups- community organizations or groups whose voice should be represented but for whom the fundraising obligation is a barrier to participation. Sponsorships by businesses such as Wegmans, Sciarabba Walker, M&T Bank, and Visions Federal Credit Union enable participation by underserved voices without diminishing fundraising impact. Readathon 2022 will take place May 7th in conjunction with the first weekend of the Friends book sale and Spring Writes.

Friends - D. Trotter reported donations are brisk, accepting donations until April 16th. Spring sale starts the weekend of May 7th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn to Executive Session by Don Trotter and seconded by Shelley Wong at 4:22pm Approved unanimously. Teresa exited at 4:32pm.

A **MOTION** was made by Don Trotter and seconded by Melisa Sidle to adjourn from executive session to public session at 4:41 p.m. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business, a **MOTION** was made by Nina Miller and seconded by Jason Moore to adjourn Public Session at 4:43 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Recorded by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Melisa Sidle
Secretary