

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 26, 2024

TCPL Board Members Present: Melisa Sidle, President; Blixly Taetzsch, Jason Moore, Liam Murphy, Lis Chabot, Shelley Wong, Kathy Weinberg, Mimi Townsend, Darrel Long, Nina Scholtz, Marli Stahler

Also Present: Leslie Tabor, Director; Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director; Rich John, County Legislator

With a quorum, meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 24-14

A **MOTION** was made by J. Moore and seconded by B. Taetzsch to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Caroline Alemany thanked the library for its work, she recently moved to the area and feels the library is exceptional, complementing in particular for the Library of Things and the Makerspace. She suggested the library add a YMCA membership and a drone to the Library of Things.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024, MINUTES DOC 24-15

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

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixly Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #5 dated 3/7/24 and #6 dated 3/21/24 totaling \$136,141.36. 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 2024 bills in the amount of \$196,895.34 as listed in Abstracts #7, #8 and #9.

APPROVAL OF THE BYLAWS DOC 24-16

A **MOTION** was made by M. Stahler and seconded by S. Wong to approve the Bylaws. Approved unanimously. The Board then had the following discussion:

- Wong moved to amend Article III.1.3 to “Candidates selected by the Board shall be presented to the [Legislature] ... and shall take office upon taking the appropriate oath of office.” Weinberg seconded and the change was unanimously approved

- The Board discussed the distinction between Standing and Ad Hoc Committees and how that status might impact the regularity of their meetings. Wong noted the importance of asking each committee, particularly the Community Relations and Outreach Committee, to regularly revisit its charter.

- John raised the question of the number of trustees and the importance the County has in requiring a single set number of trustees rather than even the smaller range proposed. In discussion, the Board noted the importance of the need to be able to continue to conduct business even if a member resigns (thereby rendering the board out of compliance with the by-laws). John noted that there are other corporations in similar partnerships with the Legislature and the Board committed to review their solutions to this problem if they will share. The Board generally indicated its willingness to consider alternate language as used in other corporations connected with the County.

- John suggested an amendment to Article VII to add a closing paragraph stating “These bylaws when approved by the Tompkins County Legislature shall be come adopted.” Taetzsch so moved, Moore seconded, Approved unanimously.

- Discussion then closed and the Board approved the By-laws, as changed, unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

L. Chabot made a recommendation for nominee Christina-Marie Brewington for a three-year term as trustee. Approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Tabor reported that the auditors recommend we resume signing conflict of interest waivers. Tabor has started to attend the Legislator’s Government Operations Committee meetings. Tabor reminded trustees of the need to complete at least two hours of trustee training each calendar year. She invited trustees to a ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of the RFID project on April 12 at 2:30.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Side confirmed the Director’s 360 review was completed and she is working with Tabor on a series of action items suggested in that process. Trustee, Jamila Walida-Simon resigned as a trustee. She welcomes suggestions for members of the board noting that we have a predominance of female-oriented voices and suggestions for other voices. The Executive Committee will convene on a quarterly basis in conformance with the Open Meetings Law in April. Side and Chabot will meet Tabor in April and attend an upcoming all staff meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Chabot is staffing the Board Committees and circulated the roster of members, she encouraged trustees to volunteer for at least one committee.

LIAISON REPORTS

County – The Legislature has been busy and will be starting the budget process in April.

Foundation – A little more than half of the tickets for the Silent Reading Party fundraising event have sold as of today. Tickets are \$35 for the event taking place on April 10th from 6-9pm at Argos Warehouse. Most of the ticket purchasers so far are new to the Foundation, which is the primary goal for this event- to obtain new donors and then retain them.

Readathon 2024 is also bringing in some new faces. This year's event is video-only; reader-fundraisers have the entire month of April to fundraise and record their reads which will be available on the Foundation's YouTube channel at the end of the month for donors to view. There's still time to sign up if you'd like to participate. We may also need trustees and Foundation board members to sponsor a library team if there's interest. We'll also be reaching out to see if anyone's interested in helping with National Library Workers Appreciation day.

We're excited to bring Leslie to Longview tomorrow morning (March 27.) We need all our boards' help with recommendations for future community visits as well as connections to make those visits happen. You're welcome to send those recommendations or offer up connections to Kerry to facilitate.

Friends – The Friends are gearing up for the May sale, last donations accepted on April 16th . Trustees are welcome as volunteers.

A **MOTION** was made by L. Murphy and seconded by S. Wong to adjourn at 5:28 pm.
Approved unanimously.

Minutes gathered by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Liam Murphy
Secretary