

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 23, 2018

TCPL Board Members Present: Kenneth McClane, Acting President; Thompson Terry, Nina Scholtz, Luca Maurer, Don Trotter, Kris Altucher, Jamie Loehr, Shelley Wong

Board Members Excused: Martha Hardesty, Nina Miller, Jason Moore, Ingrid Jensen, Bruce Ryan

Also Present: Annette Birdsall, Library Director; Mary McKeon, Admin Asst; Michelle Benjamin, Business Manager; Sarah O'Shea, Head of Youth Services; Mike Lane, County Legislator; Amanda Champion, County Liaison

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

With a quorum now present, meeting convened at 4:04 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 18-01

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

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2017 DRAFT MINUTES DOC 18-02

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

RATIFY THE DECEMBER 2017 BILLS Previously approved on December 19, 2017 by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee presented in writing, according to the Board of Trustees by-laws, the approval of the December 19, 2017 Finance & Personnel Committee. I, Vice President, Kenneth McClane, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed all capital project invoices presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved capital project budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment to Tompkins County capital project invoices in the amount of \$ 42,222.36 as listed in Capital Project Abstract #6.

I, Vice President, Kenneth McClane, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payrolls #24 dated 11/22/17, #25 dated 12/7/17 and #26 dated 12/21/17 totaling \$151,156.39. 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 December 2017 bills in the amount of \$248,599.00 as listed in Abstracts #35, #36, #37 and #38.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS

I, Treasurer, Thompson Terry, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payrolls #1 dated 1/4/18 and #2 dated 1/18/18 totaling \$104,571.57. 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 January 2018 bills in the amount of \$143,943.40 as listed in Abstracts #1, #2 and #3.

I, Treasurer, Thompson Terry, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed all capital project invoices presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved capital project budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment to Tompkins County capital project invoices in the amount of \$ 5,612.08 as listed in Capital Project Abstract #7.

#### APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET DOC 18-03

A MOTION was made by T. Terry and seconded by J. Loehr to approve the Proposed 2018 Budget. Approved unanimously.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC & MARKETING CONTRACT DOC 18-04

Accepted unanimously.

#### DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Birdsall respectfully requested that all Trustees become library card holders, if they have not already joined. This priority helps ensure that policies are made by those using the library, and helps Trustees enjoy all the rich programs, services, and resources available to all patrons.

She also made an impassioned case for her fine free philosophy which encompasses an equitable balance between access and stewardship. She emphasized that fines aren't effective for encouraging the timely return of materials; they discourage people who may not be able to afford the fines away from the library altogether. People who can afford to pay the fine simply keep the book for however long they want. This practice has become a "borrowing privilege" for library users that can afford it. She wants to remove this injustice and encourage access. Stewardship is ensured because people will still need to pay for lost or damaged materials

Birdsall also discussed her goals and programming philosophy. Staff meetings have been focused on aligning department goals with her three goals for increasing access for all, improving staff satisfaction, and working toward belonging. She has also been evaluating upcoming programs to see if they have strong community engagement potential and meet the library's mission. Birdsall said that top priority will be given to programs that explore social justice and use our new spaces.

She provided hiring updates:

- Interviews for the Librarian I position will begin on February 5
- Interviews for the Librarian II position will begin on February 12
- List for Library Assistants will be available in April
- Clerk exam was held last week

She has printed and distributed Internet & Exhibit statements to each service desk to provide consistency in communication about those policies.

Birdsall concluded with an invitation to everyone for Gallery night on February 2.

### **Internet Access at Tompkins County Public Library**

Tompkins County Public Library provides unfiltered access to the Internet in accordance with the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement, the Library Bill of Rights, and the ALA statement on Access to Electronic Information. The Internet is a world-wide community with a highly diverse user population, and it is the user's responsibility to use the resource wisely. The Library makes no guarantee, either expressed or implied, and assumes no responsibility for the quality, accuracy, or currency of the information the user finds. All users must comply with the Library's Internet Policy and Code of Conduct.

The library affirms the right and responsibility of parents and guardians to guide, determine, and monitor their children's use of the internet, resources, and spaces in accordance with individual family beliefs.

The Internet policy is available on our website and at the reference desks. Internet access is defined at each internet station. Parents and guardians can prohibit internet access on the library card application or by visiting the library circulation desk.

### **Tompkins County Public Library's Exhibit Policy**

<http://tcpl.org/services/public-spaces-policies.php>

*A broad spectrum of opinion and viewpoints is encouraged through the use of exhibits. The library does not endorse the viewpoints or artistic expression of exhibitors, and will not disallow exhibits because of controversial content or because of the beliefs or affiliations of those whose work is represented.*

*The library will not censor or remove an exhibit because some members of the community disagree with its content. Objections to an exhibit should be submitted in writing to the Library Director, indicating how the exhibit violates the attached policies on library exhibits.*

LIAISON REPORTS

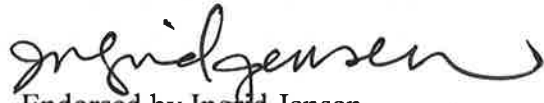
Friends – D. Trotter stated the friends are continuing to accept donation and shelving.

County – M. Lane announced his long time service as liaison to the legislature was coming to an end, Amanda Champion will be the new liaison.

MOTION to adjourn by J. Loehr and seconded by T. Terry at 5:03 PM. Approved unanimously.



Recorded by Mary McKeon  
Admin. Asst.



Endorsed by Ingrid Jensen  
Secretary