

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JUNE 24, 2025

TCPL Board Members Present: Kathy Weinberg, President; Lis Chabot, Darrell Long, Sarah Clausen, Shelly Wong, Jason Kovari, Emily Hopkins, Laura Krauss, Carrie Bauer, Reyna Florentino-Gambrell, Beth Osborne

Trustees Excused: Nina Scholtz, Christina Brewington

Also Present: Susan Currie, Interim Director; Tonya VanCamp, Business Manager; Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Judd Karlman, AS Dept. Head; Kat Savage, YS Dept. Head; Brian Sasser, Communications Manager; Rich John, County Legislator

With a quorum, the meeting is convened at 4:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 25-39

A **MOTION** was made by D. Long and seconded by E. Hopkins to approve the agenda as amended. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attended the meeting and addressed the board:

Kelly Doolittle

ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

Accepted unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MAY 27, 2025 MINUTES DOC 25-40

Approval of the minutes with minor corrections.

APPROVAL OF TCPL CARD AND LENDING GUIDELINES POLICY

Approved with modifications to include Read-Along Books and revise the number of automatic renewals allowed for loaned items from six to two, to align with other Finger Lakes Library System members' lending policies.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Lisabeth Chabot, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #11 dated 5/29/25 and #12 dated 6/12/25 totaling \$129,126.19. 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 June 2025 bills in the amount of \$252,725.46 as listed in Abstracts #16, #17 and #18.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are at the beginning of the annual budget season. Both the Business Manager and I had training from the County Budget office earlier this spring and we are scheduled to meet with the County Administrator later in the summer.

We have two vacancies on the Board of Trustees and will need to form a Nominating Committee to fill the vacancies. We will be working with the Executive Committee to organize that this summer.

The library has been very, very busy this month with TCPL's participation in the Ithaca Festival, the Summer Reading Kickoff, Pride Week, and Southside's Juneteenth Festival, a public reading of the U.S. Constitution along with a number of heavily attended programs. Many thanks to all the staff who put together such wonderful programs for our community.

I continue to work closely with the Finger Lakes Library System and want to thank Meghan Malloy, a librarian in our Adult Services department, for attending the FLLS Directors' June meeting to give an overview of after-hours reference services. The Circulation department have been working to reopen the Circulation desk by ordering needed equipment, etc. We are ordering lamps for the desk as it is somewhat dark, and it may take Facilities a little while to brighten that area more. I also want to thank our Library Pages who have been shifting the print collection to make it more accessible!

We will be undertaking an audit of IT and computers at TCPL. Thank you to Board VP, Darrell Long for his assistance with this.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board would like to take a moment to address concerns voiced to the Board about the Harris Beach investigation.

Late last year, in response to concerns raised by external partners and some staff, the Tompkins County Public Library Board of Trustees initiated an impartial, third-party investigation into the Board's and management's oversight of the library.

The Board retained an independent law firm, Harris Beach Murtha, to provide guidance to the Board. The firm reviewed relevant documents and emails and conducted almost 50 interviews. While the firm issued no written report, the firm's observations, based on its investigation, are guiding Board members in carrying out their governance role, including:

- Supervising and evaluating the Library Director,
- Reviewing system security practices,

- Communicating effectively and frequently with the community and partner organizations, and
- Addressing Central Library obligations.

We would also like to clarify that Director Leslie Tabor stepped down voluntarily; there was no termination for cause. The Board thanks Ms. Tabor for her service at the library, and we wish her well as she pursues new employment opportunities.

While the Library is in transition, we have a strong leadership team in place, including Interim Director Susan Currie, dedicated to continuing work to expand Library services for our community, while also defending the right to intellectual freedom and ensuring a culture of trust and accountability. The Board appreciates the library staff's commitment to providing patron-centered services and resources in a welcoming space.

LIAISON REPORTS

County- R. John said the County is waiting to see what NYS is doing as far as the budgets. The reading of the constitution was great! I was the last to read.

Foundation – The next Silent Reading Party fundraising event was coming up on Sunday, July 13th at the Backyard at Northstar House, and Readathon 2025 is being scheduled for October 11, 2025.

A **MOTION** to adjourn meeting by J. Kovari and seconded by L. Krauss at 5:25 p.m. Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by D. Long and seconded by C. Bauer to move into Executive Session at 5:26pm. Approved unanimously.

No votes took place.

The board came out of Executive Session at 5:37pm.

The board identified the need to amend the March 25, 2025 minutes to reflect the actions taken in March.

R. John stated it had come to his attention that certain actions taken in the March 25, 2025 meeting, have not yet been reflected in the minutes of that meeting. In his capacity as Tompkins County Legislature liaison, he confirmed that he had witnessed two resolutions, concerning both the resignation of Leslie Tabor and the hiring of Susan Currie.

A MOTION was made by D. Long and seconded by K. Weinberg to amend March 25, 2025 minutes to reflect:

- The board's formal acceptance of the resignation of Director Tabor and ratification of the execution of documents and actions taken by K. Weinberg to effectuate the resignation,

- The board's hiring Susan Currie.

Motion approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by D. Long to adjourn the meeting and seconded by K. Weinberg at 5:52pm.

Minutes by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by
Secretary