

Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: February 13, 2025

Present: Trustees Yosefa Karchmar, Charlotte Herscher, Paul Vanbenschoten, Nina Schmidbaur, Timothy Scott, Julie Misiano, Ken Goldberg, Erin Poll, Rebecca Lang, Teresa Giordano

Excused: Robert Irizarry

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: Ray Rebholz

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment: N/A

Friends of Library: Co-President Rebholz: Friends met on January 27, 2025, reviewed the past year and began to prepare for the upcoming year's activities. They now have 160 members. Next meeting is March 24th at 7PM in the library Community Room.

Unfinished Business:

- **Library Retreat:** Since the consensus at the last meeting was that a retreat was not necessary, but trustees wanted to build connections with each other, starting next month, trustees are invited to come to the community room at 5:30, prior to the meeting, in the hopes of fostering camaraderie among the trustees.
- **Library Advocacy Day:** Board President attended the advocacy day and stayed for the whole day. He was able to meet the head of the Legislative Committee for library affairs, Siela Bynoe, and she gave a keynote speech at their rally which was uplifting. The event was well attended by library staff, trustees and advocates from across the state. He also met with State Representative Sarahana Shrestha's staff and State Senator Michelle Hinchey's staff. They are both strong allies of the library system.
- **Sunshine Fund:** trustees were invited to participate. We now have \$110 available.

New Business:

1. Vandalism: damage to the elevator mechanism: young teenagers were wrestling in the elevator and inadvertently shifted a mechanism that resulted in over \$9,000 worth of repairs. The youth had to be rescued from the elevator, so the Director knows who they are. At this time they are banned from the library until the trustees reach consensus of what else should be done. The trustees proceeded to discuss various options.

Trustees reached consensus about having them barred for six months. If they want to return to the library when the six months is up, they must write a letter of apology signed by themselves and their parents; always be accompanied by a responsible adult; and sign a contract indicating their agreement to follow the patron code of conduct going forward. In addition, trustees determined that a letter to the editor, explaining the recent incident, while keeping names anonymous, is in order. This is because the community is aware that the fire department was here and they should know how taxpayer money was spent.

2. Annual Report to the State: Tim Scott made a motion to have the report approved, seconded by Paul Vanbeschoten. Passes unanimously.
3. Sexual Harassment Training annually for all trustees. An email with a link for the training will be sent by the Director. We are required to complete it. Email the Board President with your certificate upon completion.

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Ken Goldberg and *Second* by Charlotte Herscher to approve the minutes as amended to correct the MHLS Director's name and correct a date for a committee meeting. Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 27,116.31 made by Charlotte Herscher .seconded by Teresa Giordano Passes unanimously

Director's Report: Please see the report included in the Meeting Packet.

- Elevator incident from 1/28/25:
- We have mounted a corkboard in the second floor alcove for community use
- Pending donation in memory of a community member and library advocate. They would like it to be used to purchase Large Print books and Children's

Books. They would like book plates to honor her memory in the books this donation purchased.

Committee Reports:

Finance: met on January 13, 2025

As per the MHLS system, we are underpaying our portion of the digital materials utilized by our patrons and currently we are not on par for our size. Motion to amend the budget to increase digital material line by \$2,000 and to add \$2,000 from the unrestricted fund balance, to in order to balance the 2025 budget made by Charlotte Herscher, seconded by Ken Goldberg. Passes unanimously.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 20, 2025 at 6PM

Personnel/Policy: met on January 15, 2025

Weeding policy was reviewed and the petty cash policy was eliminated.

Motion to approve the weeding policy, which clarified what actually happens in the weeding process made by Tim Scott, seconded by Julie Misiano. Passes unanimously.

Draft parking lot policy included in the packet: Will be addressed next month

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 19, 2025 at 6PM

Facilities: met on January 21, 2025

Vandalism other than the elevator has been happening such as thrown wet paper. There have been a few improvements and repairs.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 18, 2025 at 6 PM

Outreach: met on January 27, 2025

The Third Annual Books As Art project's opening night will be on Friday 2/28/25 from 5pm-7pm. Trustees are encouraged to attend the opening night.

The Chronogram came here to take pictures to include in an article on the project

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Friends Liaison: The Director attended the most recent Friends meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm by Tim Scott ; Teresa Giordano
Seconded by

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Julie Misiano

Next meeting: March 13, 2025 at 6PM