

0 Saugerties Public Library

Regular Board Meeting

Date: 11/14/2024

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

Excused: Rebeca Lang, Nina Schmidbaur, Julie Misiano

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: Ray Rebholz, Alexis Rheinhold, Deena Turner

Meeting called to order 6:12 pm PM by Timothy Scott

Public Comment: Deena Turner spoke about the 5 year plan. Made suggestions:.

- ❖ The library can help with affordability issues, which is most pronounced with community members not currently library patrons. One idea is to have a community piano that kids who can't afford pianos at home could use. She knows people who might donate a piano and who might volunteer to teach and tune it.
- ❖ There is a lack of inclusion of Spanish speakers in the general community. Spanish language fiction and non-fiction materials should be increased. She can assist with translation needs, such as helping Spanish speakers fill out government forms, and do bilingual story time.
- ❖ Seniors are isolated, especially women. Library should have a place for seniors to meet to share skills and books.

Alexis Rheinhold spoke about the 5-year plan. Noted 2.6% completion rate. Said this is incomplete data and community needs, affordability, and inclusivity should be taken into consideration.

Friends of Library: Co-President Ray Rebholz shared the Murder Mystery program that the Friends will be hosting at Total Tennis on Wednesday, November 20th at 6:00 pm. The Festival of Trees will take place on Sunday, December 8th from 10-4 pm. For those who want to

participate by decorating a small tree, the library has several that can be checked out on a library card.

Unfinished Business: At the last meeting we discussed changing the bylaws to make it easier to fulfill executive officer positions if no one else is able or willing to take on that role.

- 1. Tim Scott made a motion to add the text: “In the event that no eligible board members want to run for an executive position, a member who has met their term limit may continue for one additional year.” to the bylaws.**
- 2. Charlotte Herscher seconded the motion.**
- 3. All said Aye. No Nays. No Abstentions.**

New Business:

1. Parking Policy

1. The library’s parking lot is being used by those who are not actually using the library during open hours, including teachers at Cahill who are parking all day. Should we have these cars towed?
2. There was a patron who was living in her van in the library parking lot, and she was using the library every day. She seems to have found a place to live and no longer parks in the lot. If this happens in the future, is it ok for the person to sleep in the lot?
3. Discussion around people using the lot but not the library included putting up parking signs specifying that if they are using the lot, they should be using the library. Ken Goldberg said that he would ask what M&T Bank does for their lot. Jennifer suggested creating a mock ticket similar to what Kingston does for their lot to put under the windshield wiper blades for those who take advantage. Board members didn’t think that the threat of having a car towed was friendly, although Erin Poll said taking up a spot in the library lot all day isn’t friendly either.
4. Discussion also included how to work with people who are homeless and using the library. Board members agree we should offer resources.
5. The Policy Committee will review what was said and begin a DRAFT parking policy.

2. Exterior bathroom sign

1. It has been suggested by patrons that there should be a baby changing sign for both the men and women’s bathrooms.
2. It has also been suggested that there should be signs mentioning that we have a “gender neutral” bathroom upstairs.
 1. The board discussed the most appropriate term for this sign and decided on “gender neutral”.

3. Five Year plan DRAFT

1. The Board was given a first and second draft of the 5 year plan. Draft one drew directly from the survey results and was put together by Jennifer. Erin Poll built on the first draft, creating action plans. For the final draft, we will add information from the committees and will further assess what is and isn't feasible over the next 5 years.
 1. Discussion: General agreement on plan, with caveat that not all board members had read the second draft.
 1. Ken mentioned "affordability" might confuse people, because that's heavily associated with housing costs. Also said 5-year plan should focus on bigger issues, not minutiae that can be sorted out in committees (ex. living wages for staff). Noted that not living wage is important for staff retention.
 2. Tim pointed out some of these things have already been implemented by staff, for instance staff is figuring out how to get library cards to all teens
 3. Teresa brought up having village/town board minutes at the library, but unfortunately, there is no space.

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Tim Scott and *second* by Rob Irizarry to approve the minutes as written. Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$65,981.81 made by Charlotte Herscher, seconded by Paul Van Benschoten, passes unanimously. Bills are higher this month, because retirement has been paid in advance.

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

Committee Reports:

Finance: met on October 21st, 2024

The retirement bill arrived early so that we can pay it before the end of the year and take advantage of a small discount. Also, the annual fee for our McNaughton book rental program is due.

Next meeting: November 18, 2024

Personnel/Policy: met on October 16th at 6:00 pm

Please see minutes for more information.

Next meeting: Because the next meeting lands on the evening of the Friends of the Library's Murder Mystery event, we will meet on December 18th at 6:00pm.

Facilities: Did not meet in October.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 19th at 6:00 pm

Outreach: met on October 28th at 6:00 pm

Please see minutes for more information.

Next meeting: November 25th at 5:00 pm

Friends Liaison:

N/A

Motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM by Tim Scott

Seconded by Erin Poll

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Jennifer Russell and Erin Poll

Next meeting: December 12th, 2024 at 6 PM