Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: September 10, 2026

Present: Trustees Timothy Scott, Charlotte Herscher, Valentina Kielland, Rebecca Lang, Kerry McQuaide, Ken Goldberg, Alice Graves, Teresa Giordano, Erin Poll, Paul Van Benschoten

Absent: Yosefa Karchmar
Staff: Director Jennifer Russell, Liz Mendoza -Library Assistant

Public Attendees: Bill Barr (Town Board Liaison), Ray Rebholz, Ed Himberger

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:
Ed Himberger-running for the SPL board. Gave a brief synopsis of his work and use of libraries. Professionally known as Ed Gerard.
Bill Barr- Tomorrow there will be a ceremony for 9/11 at 6:00. 9/14 Melissa Everett will be hosting an event at the Local regarding the electrical grid. Solar up now NY: passed in senate and assembly in NY. Plug in solar. Saugerties is hoping to join a stakeholders group to work on this. River keepers are writing a letter to DEC to work on leaching from landfills into the river. 10/16 Chamber of commerce is having the barking around Saugerties Auction.

Friends of Library: Ray Rebholz**:** 9/21 at 7:00pm is the next meeting. 11/4th is wine and cheese at total tennis. There will be no murder mystery. Ed Moran will be talking about the revolution in Saugerties. The friends will miss Jen. Thank you for your service.
Old Business:

New Business: none
1. Introducing Liz Mendoza: Temporary director position. She worked in TX at a variety of libraries. She was hired here in May. She enjoys working in the many aspects of the library.
2. Nominating Committee: Alice and Yosefa. The vote is next Tuesday. The annual meeting is in October. The new folks join and people leave if they are departing. We need to sign all of the paperwork. That is when we vote for the executive committee and the chair assignments. We will most likely vote via paper.
3. Advertising for Director position: Ads have been put on various sites including the MHLS bulletin, which needs to be placed weekly. Placed on Reforma for 30 days. We've placed it on the Black librarians caucus and NiLine.
4. Director's search: There have been several folks that responded. The Personnel committee, Tiffany, and Ken are going through them. We looked at five resumes. Two are not qualified. We received another one today from a highly qualified candidate. Jen's last day is tomorrow and Liz will step in. The search committee will meet as needed. We will keep the board informed as things progress as necessary and appropriate. Ken has clarified that the Director 1 position is a civil service position. If there are 3 individuals on the list, you must pick one of them unless you

have an applicant in your community. There is no one on the list so we are free to look for and hire whoever we want as long as they meet civil service requirements. Before we tell the person we like, we should send it to the civil service to make sure we are satisfying their requirements. We want to select someone who can meet our needs and has the background to do that.

Erin wants to know what the board is looking for in a director. Kerry says competence. She wants the director to have strong expertise in how libraries run. It was mentioned that programs and such isn't really the area that we need to look at as the director delegates that. The director should know the legalities and the MHLS. Some feel the search committee is in charge of this, others feel like the interview is the way to really determine who the best choice is. Tim recommends if anyone has a topic that they think is important to consider in regards to the search, they should pass it along to the committee. In regards to having an employee on the committee, it is important. Alice is willing to join the committee. Jen recommends asking people how they'd deal with specific situations to see how they would handle it. The board is the final decision making body. It is recommended a slow to hire, fast to fire approach. Use a probationary period.

Secretary's Report:
MOTION: **to approve**
Motion by Tim and seconded by Ken to approve the minutes. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:
MOTION: Bill was pretty standard. Motion to pay the bills in the amount of $20,784.54 was made by Charlotte and seconded by Kerry.
All in favor.

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

Programs: The Summer Reading Program continued with an Adult US History trivia contest (for the 250th) and two Dinosaur programs with large interactive fossil displays.

The Great Give Back: This is an opportunity for volunteers. In honor of the 250th, all of the Ulster and Dutchess county libraries will be participating in a Food Fight. From September 2nd to October 17th, we will be accepting non-perishable food donations. Along with all of the other libraries, we will tally up how many items we receive and compare our numbers with the Dutchess County libraries.

Tim mentioned that the gardens are looking great.

Ambassadors report:
Teresa: She was on a zoom regarding how libraries could use AI. She will share the link when she gets the link to the talk. She was also hoping we'd talk up the food fight. The community fridge can use some help as well. Tim wanted to add that he attended a meeting of a group of

folks who work in bookstores and libraries. They have some contacts in the authors against book bans group. The Governor needs to hear from “upstate” folks to apply pressure to pass The Freedom to Read Act. Kerry will check to see if there is a “one-click” email you can use to apply pressure. Teresa recommends seeing the documentary on book bans. Ed asked if Michelle Hinchey has been contacted about any of this.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See minutes attached.
They did not meet in August.

Next meeting: Sept 21st at 6:00

Personnel/Policy: See minutes attached.
Met on August 26th.

Policy:
-Updated community room form with clear guidelines.
-The Computer Use Policy and FOIL is a work in progress. There is contention about patron records not being foiled. Certain libraries in the area have used that interpretation to include video of patrons being in the library because that would be part of their record. People can keep their own records on the catalog of what they take out. There are also questions about paying for records as they need to be found and copied. The IRS asks if you are filing the request, how much are you willing to spend to get the information. If it exceeds your willingness to pay, do you still want to do so? There are some guides we can look at to help us solidify this. The committee is still working on this as it has lots of legalese.

Personnel:
We switched life insurance from MetLife to Hartford.

Next meeting: September 23rd at 6:15

Facilities: see minutes attached.
Met on August 18th.
Lights need some replacements.
Wifi still seems slow despite the change.
The back roof over the stairway is leaking. We’ve received an estimate from Superior Roof.
Paul met with Brigid regarding the front steps. She is working on some estimates because there are gaps and cracks.

Next meeting: September 15th at 6:00. This will need to be rescheduled due to the vote so TBD.

Outreach:

Met on August 24th.
Made an effort to work on bibloboard project. They are looking to highlight local musicians. This is an exciting opportunity for self-published writers. They wanted the gathering of aid agencies, they are going to make a poster at this time.

Next meeting: Sept 28th at 5:30

A motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:12 was made by Tim and seconded by Paul. Exit session at 7:33 and seconded by Alice. All in favor.

Next meeting for the Board: Next meeting: October 8th, 2026
Bring food to share.
Motion to adjourn by Tim at 7:35 PM
Seconded by Alice
Passes unanimously.
Submitted by Rebecca Lang