



OFFICERS:
President: Susan Keitel
Vice-President: Jackie Marino
Treasurer: Fred Wobrock, Jr.
Secretary: Yvette Terplak

Board of Trustees
March 13, 2024

PRESENT: Susan Keitel; Evelyn Greenstein; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Corie Dugas; Arlene Way; Lisa Scoons; Jackie Marino; Scott Wyner; Joe Burke; Tara Ricard; Marcy Savage; Camille Engel; Yvette Terplak
Excused: Debbie Carr

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:31PM.

II. MINUTES

J. Marino wanted to note that she had requested announcements from UHLS managers not just for her but for the full board.

MOTION: Y. Terplak moved to approve the February 2024 Minutes.
C. Engel seconded. Unanimous.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

With T. Burke serving on Jury Duty, S. Keitel requested to work through his report with updates and questions for J. Favreau:

- J. Burke explained that the governor put out her proposal and we were heartened to see an increase included for libraries. The Senate and Assembly have now put out their proposed budgets with an additional 2.5 million – so over 5 million from last year's budget. There were also increases for construction aid and both one-house budgets also put in for NOVEL NY at 3 million. M. Savage suggests everyone thank their representatives and ask them to hold firm in the final budget.
- The vacant position in the Youth & Family Services department following Amy DuBrey's resignation has been offered to an applicant; at this point we're just waiting for an official signature to make the announcement.
- At this point, the UHLS NYS annual report has not been completed. There have been many glitches in the reporting system but J. Favreau is optimistic it'll be submitted soon, with the opportunity to make any changes as needed. She's also still waiting on one member library to complete their NYS report as well.
- It has only been a couple of weeks, but so far our arrangement with LCR Consulting has been smooth and cost effective. Y. Terplak reiterated that Rawdon knows the place and our member libraries, so it's a great solution. It's also a wonderful opportunity to ease someone into retirement, as it can be a difficult transitional period for some. We'll see as

the year progresses if we'll need more time from him. L. Scoons suggested UHLS survey the member libraries because if they have employees retiring with IT responsibilities, they may need more assistance from UHLS.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

F. Wobrock noted that compared to last year, we're about \$100k ahead because of the remaining 2023 funds that we received in January. Operating cash was at \$1.235 million – plenty to get us through the summer when the next round of NYS funding typically comes in. Looking at the Purchase Journal, there were \$24k in delivery charges. Seems like a lot more than usual, but that's because they were all paid at once vs. throughout the month. Page 2 includes a payment for \$116k to Sierra, which is our cataloging software. It was a 2 payday month and as usual, the content charges are a pass-through.

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the February 2024 Treasurer's Reports and Purchase Journals. M. Savage seconded. Unanimous.

S. Keitel asked how much we pay annually for delivery - approximately \$300k. She then asked F. Wobrock that if he could wave a magic wand, what would you want us all to know? He said that our finances are on a cash basis and cash is what we need on hand to complete business. The operating cash number is what carries us through, so that should be the trustees primary focus. T. Ricard asked if we were earning enough on restricted accounts – yes.

Administration & Services Committees

Both committees reviewed the annual awards criteria via email and both committees agreed that an in-person meeting wasn't needed, as nothing needed to be changed from last year's documents, with the exception of a few grammatical errors that J. Marino spotted. T. Burke will share out the criteria with directors the first week in April with a due date of Monday, April 29.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

L. Scoons (BETH): The BETH library has removed the pause of meeting room reservations. They are now restricting the size to prevent events that are too large to effectively manage. Their board now has 3 seats open for this year's election and in addition, the bond for construction will also be coming up for vote in the near future. Many in the room gave kudos to Lisa and the whole BETH board for weathering their on-going "storms" like professionals.

- C. Dugas (GUIL): None of the three final candidates for Library Director dropped out of the application process after the cafe closing controversy, which they are all thankful for. The GUIL board has been transparent with applicants and are hoping to have an offer by the end of the month, as tomorrow is the final interview. The final starting date will depend on whether or not the new hire is local.
- Y. Terplak (ALTM): The ALTM library is now planning their annual gala, which will be held once again at the fairgrounds on June 1. The theme is very “Swiftly” – it’s always a great time and she’s looking forward to it. If you have books to donate for their annual garage sale, please reach out to Joe.
- A. Way (APL): A. Way would like to sing the praise of the APL team – they are amazing and seem to be at every community meeting. The library is safe, a place to expand, to escape, to learn. The APL branches truly are part of every community. They just announced their open board seats and will be hosting 2 sessions of “so you want to be a trustee.”
- E. Greenstein (TROY): Staff are working hard to get the Lansingburgh branch open – hopefully soon! There is no official timeline but they are working very hard to make it happen this month.
- S. Wyner (STEP): The library just hosted their mid-month potluck with the Four Fat Fowl, a local artisan creamery, in an attempt at reaching more (new) members of the community. About 50 people came – food always attracts people!
- F. Wobrock (BRUN): Their community garden day is coming up – keep an eye out for the date announcement. They will be dedicating a memorial bench at the library to the late Tom Mahoney.
- J. Marino (VAFL): The library is working on their next 5 year plan.

MOTION: T. Ricard moved to adjourn. E. Greenstein seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM.

04/02/2024 JF