



UPPER HUDSON
LIBRARY SYSTEM
Together. For Better Libraries.

OFFICERS:

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

**Board of Trustees
April 10, 2024**

PRESENT: Susan Keitel; Evelyn Greenstein; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Corie Dugas; Arlene Way; Lisa Scoons; Jackie Marino; Scott Wyner; Joe Burke; Camille Engel; Yvette Terplak; Debbie Carr
Excused: Tara Ricard; Marcy Savage
UHLS Staff: T. Burke; J. Favreau
Guests: Sara Dallas; Eric Trahan

I. CALL TO ORDER

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:32PM.

II. MINUTES

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

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

T. Burke summarized his distributed report and also wanted to give a shout-out to APL and A. Nicolay for the lovely piece on the news highlighting libraries this week.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

F. Wobrock shared that we're ahead of where we were this time last year because we received some 2023 state funds in January of 2024. Looking at the Treasurer's Report, we still have \$1.7m, which will hold us over until we receive state funding this year. While reviewing the Purchase Journal, he noted that March was a two payroll month. \$10k was made as a deposit to replace the flooring in the Asian Arts space. D. Carr asked why this expense was so high if the area ruined was so small – because we have to replace the entire flooring. We knew this when we cut into it last summer, it's just taken the tenants a while to make a decision. \$65k was received as Assembly funding for three libraries and was immediately distributed to them (APL, MEND, SCHG).

MOTION: The Finance Committee moved to adopt the March 2024 Treasurer's Reports and Purchase Journals. D. Carr seconded. Unanimous.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A copy of the UHLS 2023 DLD Annual Report was distributed to all trustees as part of the board packet. J. Favreau received one correction via email prior to the meeting and will make the change with DLD.

MOTION: D. Carr moved to approve the 2023 UHLS Annual Report as presented with the one correction to J. Marino's term. C. Dugas seconded. Unanimous.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

S. Keitel shared that last week UHLS received a formal request from the Schenectady County Public Library asking if we'd be willing to explore a resource sharing agreement with them, in light of their recent decision to leave the shared MVLS/SALS catalog. After a thorough explanation, she reminded the board that the only question presented to them this evening is whether or not UHLS is willing to explore this idea with SCPL. At this time, SCPL has not requested to leave MVLS and become a member of UHLS. No decision needs to be made this evening – she'd like all board members to have the courage to ask any and all questions; J. Favreau will record each one and T. Burke will provide as many answers as possible in a future document to assist with this decision making process.

Sara Dallas of SALS stood before the Board and read a letter she wrote that was distributed to each board member at their seats. A copy of this letter is attached to the end of these minutes.

The following questions were asked throughout the lengthy discussion:

- What were the critical issues that resulted in SCPL making the decision to leave the ILS with MVLS?
- What would be the consequences to UHLS that S. Dallas mentioned in her letter?
- What are the possible alternatives to this option?
- Right now their request is only to join our ILS, correct?
- Will we hear from SCPL? Is it relevant to hear from them?
- It was mentioned that there was a lack of flexibility – from whom?
- The letter mentions UHLS would be interfering – but aren't we already doing something similar with the RLA?
- How many libraries is SCPL?
- How is this going to interfere with our hold wait times?
- And what would they contribute to ease that burden?
- What ILS is the JA?
- When is the end of their contract with JA?
- Is SCPL requesting access to our electronic resource as well as the physical resources?
- What will it look like for us? Especially wait times –
- Is it possible to be supportive and helpful in some other way than to take this step?
- What is the stance of our automation department?
- What would be our legal exposures be?

- Do we have a time frame? Is it appealable?
- Can we have the state's opinion?
- Will we hear the opinion of the directors?
- Will SCPL be purchasing the delivery system or will they be a part of us?
- Threshold question – should we think about this, or should we not? What are the interests of all parties involved? Is it worth the effort?
- Are we going to help them or are we going to keep them out on their own?
- What problems are Schenectady trying to fix? And how will we know if they are successful?
- What are the critical issues? Do we want to welcome someone who is unable to cooperate?
- What would the picture look like for the other two systems?
- Is SCPL shopping this around?
- Does this ends with the ILS – why not a part of the system?
- How much of a time commitment in figuring this all out for the staff? Is it worth diverting our current staff's resources?

VIII. TRUSTEE REPORTS

MOTION: C. Engel moved to adjourn. D. Carr seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

04/19/2024 JF