



**OFFICERS:**  
President: Susan Keitel  
Vice-President: Marcy Savage  
Treasurer: Fred Wobrock, Jr.  
Secretary: Scott Wyner

**Board of Trustees  
February 12, 2025**

PRESENT: Rhea Drysdale; Fred Wobrock, Jr.; Camille Engel; Marcy Savage; Lisa Scoons; Susan Keitel; Jackie Marino; Joe Burke; Yvette Terplak; Sarah Macinski; Corie Dugas  
Excused: Scott Wyner; Debbie Carr; Tara Ricard  
UHLS Staff: T. Burke; J. Favreau

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

S. Keitel called the meeting to order at 4:33PM.

New trustee binders are available – please make sure to grab one before you leave.

**II. MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Y. Terplak moved to approve the January 8, 2025 amended minutes. M. Savage seconded. Unanimous.

**III. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

In response to T. Burke’s report, S. Keitel asked how the proposed shift to Library Calendar and not including the larger libraries like BETH and EGRN may add to current issues of popularity of services with out of service area users? T. Burke doesn’t think it’ll add more usage as their calendars won’t be synced with all of the others; patrons would have to visit the specific websites of those libraries to see upcoming programming. J. Marino noted that the software is only as good as what member libraries submit to it, which is correct. We’re hoping it’ll encourage those who don’t currently advertise programs on their websites to do so.

J. Burke noted that he has been using Vega via NYPL and it’s 1000% better than our current product. There are a number of additional features that we don’t currently have and is excited for the upgrade.

Not mentioned in the report but brought up last week at the DA meeting was concern over what’s been happening at the federal level. The NYS Library receives a significant amount of annual funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and much of that money goes to support staffing and services at DLD, so reductions or elimination of federal funding could seriously impact state library staff and services.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee

On the Treasurer's Report, F. Wobrock noted that in January 2024 UHLS had received 2023 funding, that's why it looks like we're behind when comparing the two years. January is traditionally a heavy month with large annual contracts due. When looking at the Purchase Journal, you'll note the insurance policies were paid, two health insurance buyouts for employees, \$6,600 toward the Memory Project which was reimbursed by a special legislative grant, the UHLS staff focaccia class at the Honest Weight Co-op and quarterly eCommerce payments to the member libraries.

**MOTION:** The Finance Committee moved to adopt the January 2025 Treasurer's Reports and Purchase Journals. J. Marino seconded. Unanimous.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

Search Committee: S. Keitel shared that they've received applications, Zoom interviews are happening right now and in March they have dates blocked out for in-person interviews with hopefully a decision made for the April meeting. You'll all be invited to attend the public presentations.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

Reconciled 2024 UHLS UHLS Budget: A copy was emailed to all trustees included in the board packet. A short discussion regarding the increase in interest income due to NYLAF took place.

T. Burke requested for consideration the withdrawal of \$3,500 to cover the implementation fee of Library Calendar for our member libraries from the Restricted Automation account.

**MOTION:** C. Dugas moved to withdraw \$3,500 from the Restricted Automation account to cover the start-up costs for Library Calendar. C. Engel seconded.

M. Savage asked if the 8 member libraries already using the service decided to switch over to this shared calendar, would UHLS make the same offer to cover the cost? T. Burke noted that we'd have to make that decision based on cost.

Unanimously passed.

Evaluation of new ED: J. Burke will lead this initiative. Every executive can benefit from the evaluation process. Y. Terplak agreed that it's a conversation and growth experience for all involved parties. R. Drysdale asked if this was probationary or annual – to be determined but the UHLS staff minus the ED is evaluated annually currently.

Evaluation of the UHLS board: D. Carr is going to lead this initiative over the coming months. S. Macinski noted that the APL board currently does annual ED reviews and quarterly evaluations of the board.

## VII. TRUSTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

J. Marino (VAFL): Last Saturday the library hosted a commemoration of black poets and she thought it was well received. Though the program wasn't

what they had originally envisioned 6 months ago due to some pushback, she was satisfied that it “planted some seeds” among community members. They hired a local black artist and while they spent more on the event than they typically would, it was well worth it.

Their long time director is retiring at the end of the month.

They’ve hired someone who’s been a long-time volunteer, employee and trustee = was a painless process! Welcome Julie Weston!

S. Macinski (APL):

Tonight at 6PM the library is hosting a date night at the Pine Hills branch with fun activities!

R. Drysdale (TROY):

TPL is looking for a new trustee as they’ve had a resignation and are questioning how they can get more community representation. They’ve hired a new outside HR firm and a lawyer for the union negotiations. They’ve had to reduce hours due to a staffing issue and last week their boiler broke (now fixed). They’ve lost their programming librarian and will be looking to replace her soon. She is unsure if she’ll continue to be the UHLS representative, as her committee assignments with TPL is taking up more time than previously anticipated.

L. Scoons (BETH):

This summer her term will be up on the BETH board and she will not be running again. UHLS will be receiving a new Bethlehem representative.

**MOTION:**

Y. Terplak moved to adjourn. C. Dugas seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

03/04/2025 JF