

**Shelter Island Public Library Society
Board of Trustees Meeting June 13, 2022
Minutes of the Meeting**

Jo-Ann Robotti called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present:

Jo-Ann Robotti, Henry Fayne, Bonnie Berman Stockwell, Don Dunning, Don Regan, Tom Hashagen, Susan Binder, Phyllis Gates and Karyn Ginsberg Greenwald

Also Attending: Terry Lucas, Library Director

Excused: Jody Geist, Linda Kraus, Archer Brown and Marie Bishko

Secretary's Report:

Henry Fayne made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from May 9, 2022 with minor corrections. Seconded by Karyn Ginsberg Greenwald. Unanimously passed.

Public Expression: None

Correspondence: None

Special Guest: Sara Garcia, Head of Youth Services

Serving children ranging in age from a few months to 17 years old, Ms. Garcia shared that her main goal is for kids to feel safe and welcome at the library. She devises programs that prioritize fun while facilitating socialization and engagement in the creative process. She is particularly sensitive to the needs of the 10 and 11 year old 'tweens' who are ineligible to participate in some of the teen activities at the school. Providing a place "where they want to be" is a priority. Ms. Garcia

shared that space is her biggest challenge--ideally there would be plenty of room for the different age groups to use the library simultaneously, but currently it's a huge balancing act to manage overcrowding. Some of the most popular programs include: Tiny Food Parties, Farmstand Story Time and Bad Art, to name a few. As the summer flow of patrons grows, so does the schedule, with expanded offerings made possible by the tent. These include Kickball, Bubble Hour, Movie Night, Family Games Day and more. There will be a youth summer reading program, but Ms. Garcia admits enthusiasm for reading books can dip as children mature so she often uses manga and graphic novels to entice the tweens and teens to read. For discipline, she relies on laps around the library to get rid of distracting energy and the only rule is "Please, be nice." Ms. Garcia believes kids are important; they deserve a space for themselves at the library; and it should be filled with lots of great books to spark their imaginations.

Board discussion after the presentation generated the following recommendations: 1) Ms. Garcia's research on tweens could be used for a Reporter article; 2) Invite Ms. Garcia to participate in the 'listening sessions' about the expansion; and 3) Ms. Garcia could help involve kids in envisioning features of new space.

Treasurer's Report:

Don Regan delivered the Treasurer's Report. The previously distributed Warrant Report and Profit and Loss Statements were reviewed and a few items explained. Overall, he said, it was a quiet month. Henry Fayne made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Phyllis Gates. Unanimously passed.

Committee Reports: (material not covered in board packet)

Friends of the Library:

The Friends of the Library approved covering Tent Week expenses, the Ancestry subscription and the Adult Summer Reading Program. Terry Lucas showed members the hot/cold cup Friends of the Library purchased for the participants in this year's program, entitled "Let's Read a Latte." Each summer approximately 60 people, both seasonal and year-round residents, sign up and enjoy a celebration under the tent at the end of August. Additionally, the Friends of the Library purchased a Lego table which has been a big hit with young patrons.

Director's Report:

Terry Lucas informed the board that the Berner family has gifted a bench in honor of long-time supporters Jerome and Ruth Berner. Jerry Berner, the mastermind of the Library's annual Tennis Tournament fundraiser, who passed away last December. The family installed the bench and the Library is very grateful.

Terry reported also that Nell Cava has accepted a position in her chosen field of Mycology and will end her employment with the Library in two weeks. She will be greatly missed. In the meanwhile, Barbara Brigham has returned and will fill in.

Special Events:

Discussion occurred regarding securing an author for the Book and Author Event to take place on a September weekend. Possible speakers include Jonathan Santlofer, John Carreyrou, Alan Feuer or Ken Auletta. Stay tuned.

Planning Committee:

Karyn Ginsberg Greenwald reported that BHC Architects is still working through the proposed contract, which should be submitted for board approval soon. Marie Bishko will begin research to identify grant funding sources in the coming week. Terry Lucas said a goal of fundraising as much as possible through grants and private donations is

under consideration. This process will be aided by the generation of renderings and drawings by the architects once a contract is in place. Jo-Ann Robotti shared that discussions with SCLS administrators indicate most East End libraries that have completed expansions in the recent past have relied almost entirely on tax-based funding. A series of cocktail parties to meet and talk about the expansion was proposed; Susan Binder and Karyn Ginsberg Greenwald will follow up. Also, the potential application of some funds from the Patterson bequest will be explored with an estates attorney. Terry Lucas shared that patrons continue to express enthusiasm for the project and the planning process is quietly proceeding.

New Business:

Piercing the tax cap:

Tom Hashagen made a motion to pierce the 2023 tax cap. Seconded by Henry Fayne. Unanimously passed.

Terry Lucas reviewed the Audit Report noting the one remaining exception is related to the requirement of larger organizations to hire independent monthly auditor, which would be unduly burdensome and unnecessary for our small library. Board members who have not yet done so should find copies of the Audit Report in their mailboxes.

Tom Hashagen reported that the first “We Do That” ad, created by Adam Hashagen, ran in the Reporter last week highlighting Passport services at the library. Adam will provide 16 weeks of ads pro bono. Terry Lucas will supply a letter valuing the contribution for his tax filing.

Proposed Budget for 2023:

Terry Lucas outlined three areas of anticipated increases in expenses for the next year: 1) utilities due to rising energy costs; 2) capital repairs due to age of building; and 3) insurance. She also shared a goal to bring staff salaries in line with the industry standard so as to retain

employees. Henry Fayne confirmed these were a good justification for the budget increase. Don Dunning made a motion to approve the Proposed Budget for 2023. Seconded by Karyn Ginsberg Greenwald. Unanimously passed.

Jo-Ann Robotti observed that new homeowners, especially those with young families, would be receptive to outreach from the library. Susan Binder proposed contacting realtors to ask them to deliver Welcome Baskets with library card applications, newsletters and a brochure about services. Don Dunning will advise how to organize this effort.

Old Business:

Don Regan reported that, as discussed at the May meeting, he consulted with UBS Money Manager Jill Bobbigan to review portfolio performance and make plans for taking advantage of any future opportunities. He will keep the board apprised of any recommendations.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Berman Stockwell
(for Linda Kraus)