

Rensselaerville Library
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
20 September 2022

The annual meeting of the Rensselaerville Library convened in Conkling Hall and virtually at 7:03 p.m. on 20 September 2022. Trustees and staff in attendance: Kostas Anagnopoulos, Tracy Bensen, Judy Crilley, Gerard Finin, Donna Kropp, Annemarie Martinez, Paul Ventura, Robert Pondiscio, Hans Soderquist, Linda Styer, Paul Ventura, Director Heidi Carle, Staff member Patrick Winn. Excused trustee: Joe Frisino. Guests included: Volunteer Coordinator Susan Cunningham, Craig Miller, Rachel Stults, Glenn Yelich, and Alexander B. Dorman.

Welcome/President's Message

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Pondiscio. He welcomed the trustees and guests and thanked everyone for their attendance and dedication to the library. It was noted that library services and fundraising are returning to normal, with the success of our recent lawn party being indicative of greater normalcy. A US House of Representatives Proclamation celebrating the library's Centenary, and was presented to the library by Congressman Paul Tonko at our Lawn Party, was read to the meeting's attendees. It was noted that the year ahead promises to be most active as we work to implement our new strategic plan.

President Pondiscio reported on highlights of 2021-2022. He thanked Director Carle for her leadership and noted that the library is actively working on expanded town-wide coverage, improved accessibility, as well as more sustainable funding. President Pondiscio thanked retiring board members Hans Soderquist and Tracy Bensen for their years of dedicated service.

Secretary's Report

In the absence of Secretary Frisino, Jerry Finin recorded the minutes. The September 2021 minutes of the Annual Meeting were reviewed. There were no modifications to the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes. A motion was made by Trustee Donna Kropp to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice President Hans Soderquist and passed by a unanimous vote.

Director's Report

Director Heidemarie "Heidi" Carle submitted a detailed year-end report, including numerous highlights of successful activities and programs. She noted that a full report about the Library is submitted annually to the Upper Hudson Library System and the New York State Department of Education. A condensed hard copy version was distributed at the meeting and is posted on the Library's website. Despite ongoing challenges presented by the COVID pandemic the Library has returned to normal hours of operation and is now offering full services. The number of registered borrowers has increased. Director Carle conveyed her gratitude to all of the

volunteers, particularly Ms Susan Cunningham, and staff, with a special note thanking Katie Caprio for her 16 years of service to the library. Director Carle read a statement indicating that after three years as Library Director she plans to retire on November 3, 2022. She thanked the trustees and patrons for their support. A motion was made by Vice President Soderquist to accept the Director's Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kropp and passed by a unanimous vote.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

Vice President Hans Soderquist presented the Building and Grounds Committee report. During the past year the climate control project for the Ballinger Annex has been completed. The Committee also received bids and submitted a grant request for a fire alarm system. Once installed, if the system detected a fire it would automatically communicate to the Albany County fire dispatcher in Clarksville. Bids have been received and a grant request has been submitted to install a new roof. It is anticipated that the work will begin within the next several weeks. The dead tree behind the library has been removed. A motion was made by Trustee Bensen to accept the Building Committee Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kropp and passed by a unanimous vote.

Fundraising Committee Report

The Fundraising Committee Report was submitted by Treasurer Annemarie Martinez. The annual appeal letter raised \$38,240. Our traditional in-person fundraising activities have resumed. The Holiday Greenery Sale was held at the library. The Cocktail Party was held at the Carey Institute for Global Good's Stonecrop residence. The Block Party was organized in conjunction with the Rensselaerville Fire Company. The Lawn Party was hosted at the historic Eli Hutchinson House. All of these lively events were well attended. The fundraising events raised the following net sums:

2021 Annual Appeal Letter \$38,240
2021 Cocktail Party (May) \$ 2,111
2021 Centennial Challenge \$ 750
2021 Roswell Eldridge Memorial Benefit \$ 3,602
2021 Greenery Sale \$ 2,586
2021 Total Fundraising Net Income \$47,289 (\$2,867 over 2020 net income)

A motion was made by Trustee Finin to accept the Fundraising Committee Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Soderquist and passed by a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report and Review of Budget

Treasurer Annemarie Martinez presented our budget. A detailed printed report of budgeted and actual expenditures was distributed. The Library continues to receive strong community support, facilitating plans for expanding programming and community outreach. We ended 2021 with income of \$147,000 and expenses of \$122,000. This yielded a surplus of \$25,000. The reason for the surplus is primarily attributable to a reduction in services caused by the COVID pandemic.

The financial outlook for 2022 indicates that the library budget will conclude the year on target.

A formal financial review of library financial transactions and financial statements for 2020 was completed in October 2021. All required tax forms were filed for 2020 and 2021. A motion was made by Vice President Soderquist to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kropp and passed by a unanimous vote.

Review of 2022 Nominating Committee Recommendations

In keeping with the by-laws, former library president Linda Styer reviewed the 2022 Nominating Committee recommendations and presented brief biographical sketches regarding the qualifications of the first term nominees. Trustee Robert Pondiscio was nominated for reappointment to a three-year term. Trustee Gerard Finin was nominated for reappointment to a one-year term. Ms Rachel Stults and Mr. Glenn Yelich were each nominated for first terms of three years. One first term trustee seat remains vacant due to a late withdrawal of the nominee. There were no nominations from the floor. President Pondiscio made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Vice President Soderquist and passed by a unanimous vote. President Pondiscio thanked the Nominating Committee for their important work.

Vote for New Board Members

President Pondiscio called upon the trustees to vote on the nominees put forth by the Nominating Committee. A motion to vote on the proposed slate was made by Trustee Kropp and seconded by Trustee Martinez. Trustees Robert Pondiscio and Gerard Finin, both candidates, abstained from voting. The slate passed by a unanimous vote of those participating trustees.

Election of Officers

Trustee Donna Kropp moved to nominate the prearranged slate of officers for a term of one year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gus Anagnopoulos. There were no additional nominations. The following slate of officers were elected by a unanimous vote:

President: Robert Pondiscio
Vice President: Gerard "Jerry" Finin
Treasurer: Annemarie Martinez
Assistant Treasurer: Paul Ventura
Secretary: Joe Frisino
Check signer #1: Joe Frisino
Check signer #2: Paul Ventura

Trustee Nominating Committee for 2023

Treasurer Martinez moved to nominate the individuals listed below to serve on the Trustee Nominating Committee for 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Crilley and was passed by a unanimous vote.

Linda Styer
Hans Soderquist
Tracy Bensen

Adjournment

President Pondiscio moved to adjourn the annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Finin and was passed by a unanimous vote. The 2021 Annual Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Finin
Acting Secretary