

Rensselaerville Library Board Meeting Minutes: April 19, 2022

Present: Robert Pondiscio (President) , Hans Soderquist (Vice-President), Annemarie Martinez (Treasurer), Joe Frisino (Secretary), Tracy Bensen, Paul Ventura, Jerry Finin, Judy Crilley, Donna Kropp, Heidi Carle (Library Director)

Excused: Gus Anagnopoulos

Absent: None

Public: Susan Cunningham, Jennifer Blum, Craig Miller, Jon and Judith Matloff, Patrick Wynne

Due to a snow storm the meeting was held online. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

President's Report

UHLS has offered to re-schedule the CORE trustee training that was postponed. A new date will be worked out with UHLS. CORE trustee training will be available to all UHLS trustees on June 6.

Public Participation

Jennifer Blum wants to establish the property line between the Library and her family's property. She believes that the AC compressor unit is on her family's property. She wants the Board to consider hiring a surveyor that will be paid for by both the family and the Library. Secondly, she'd like the Library to place a sound barrier fence to hide the unit and suppress the noise. Thirdly, she'd like the Library to consider turning the unit off when the Library is not open to help mitigate the noise. Lastly, her family is concerned about the lack of communication between the Library and its neighbors. She would like the Library's neighbors to be consulted about issues that may affect them.

Judith and Jon Matloff stated that they while they are not having issues with noise - re the new heat pump system/unit - they would also like the units to be hidden.

Building and Grounds Committee

The Building & Grounds Committee report was moved up the agenda to allow the Chair to address the concerns voiced in the Public Participation period.

Hans reported that the B&G Committee discussed the property line issue. They contacted a firm who recommended that a historical title search be conducted. The approximate cost that the committee was quoted should not exceed \$600.

Robert made a motion to approve a \$600 expense to conduct the title search to be drawn from our contingency budget. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Tracy made a motion to accept the February 2022 Board meeting minutes (this approval was delayed by the cancellation of the March Board meeting). Hans seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Annemarie brought us up-to-date on the Library's financial status since the Board last met in February.

Jerry made a motion to approve the combined February/March Treasurer's reports. Hans seconded. Motion carried.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee spoke with Tim Burke about the NYS construction grant for libraries. Annemarie walked the Board through the types of projects permissible and the construction grant timeline. The State has approved

funding of library construction grants at the same level as last year. Several possible projects are within the scope of this grant. The Board needs to agree on which projects will be included and financing of the Library's portion of the costs. Installation of a fire alarm, the Library branch/annex, and roof repair are the likely fundable projects.

Judy made a motion to approve the Finance Committee report. Tracy seconded. Motion carried.

Fundraising Committee

Tracy reported that The Cocktail Party will be on May 28 and has been moved from the Library building to Stonecrop House at the Carey Institute. This is better than the Library for social distancing. Please sign up for day-of duties!

Paul reported that the date of the Block Party is July 30. The basic setup, roles, and responsibilities between the Library and the Fire Department will be the same.

Annemarie made a motion to approve the Fundraising Committee report. Hans seconded. Motion carried.

Development Committee

No report this month.

Strategic Planning Committee

The Library Annex/Branch planning is moving forward. The Albany County Sheriff and Rensselaerville Town Supervisor are on board. The first big milestone is a legal agreement between the Town, Sheriff's Dept. and Library about use of the space. We will meet with Preston and Potter Hollow residents about their thoughts on use of the space.

The Board will formally review progress toward meeting strategic plan goals and objectives bi-annually at the February and August Board meetings.

Director's Report

Library operations are back to normal. Due to risk levels in Albany County we are still recommending that patrons wear masks, though they are not required. Circulation numbers are rising as the summer approaches. We have an estimate of \$3000 on landscaping the terraces. Jerry would like us to get at least one other bid.

Joe made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$3000 from the contingency fund to initiate landscaping work once bids are received. Judy seconded. Motion carried.

The removal of the dead tree out back is imminent. Stage one of the removal of the bats in the attic is complete. Heidi is endeavoring to have a policy per month put before the Board for review/approval.

Judy made a motion to accept the Director's Report. Tracy seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

None.

New Business

An updated Lost and Found Policy was presented to the Board for its approval.

Joe made a motion to approve the revised Lost and Found policy. Robert seconded. Motion carried.

No one attended the March Town Board meeting. Judy will attend the May 12 meeting and Robert will attend June 9.

Adjourn

Tracy made a motion to adjourn. Judy seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

The next meeting of the Rensselaerville Library Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Frisino