

Rensselaerville Library Board Meeting Minutes: May 17, 2022

Present: Robert Pondiscio (President) , Hans Soderquist (Vice-President), Joe Frisino (Secretary), Judy Crilley, Donna Kropp, Gus Anagnopoulos, Heidi Carle (Library Director)

Excused: Jerry Finin, Annemarie Martinez (Treasurer), Paul Ventura, Tracy Bensen

Absent: None

Public Attendees: Susan Cunningham

Due the ongoing pandemic the meeting was held both online and in-person. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

President's Report

Robert shared the updated by-laws. We will discuss the draft at the June meeting and vote to approve them at the July meeting.

Secretary's Report

Donna made a motion to accept the April 2022 Board meeting minutes. Gus seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Annemarie was absent so there was no Treasurer's report this month.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee did not meet in May so there was no Finance Committee Report this month.

Fundraising Committee

Plans for the Cocktail Party are proceeding. Susan Cunningham reported as Tracy is absent. A number of volunteers have signed up. The committee will set up as much as it can on the Friday prior to the event. Joe and Robert will get the alcohol and Gus will get ice.

Donna spoke about the Lawn Party. We still need to identify a place. Gus will talk to Victor Schrage as well as the owners of the Catalpa House. Another option is a venue in Medusa.

The Block Party is coming along. Responsibilities between the Fire House and the library have been delineated.

Joe made a motion to approve the Fundraising Committee report. Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds Committee

Backyard Landscaping: Hans reported that Tracy contacted 6 vendors and met with three. Based on her evaluation of the vendors and after review of the proposal from MGS, George Geldner, the committee recommends moving ahead with this proposal for a total of \$3,000.

Property Line: A title search is being conducted by PAC Abstract & Title to help clarify the confusion of multiple historic conflicting surveys. When we have the title documents, Santo Associates (surveyors) will review them.

Judy made a motion to approve the building committee report. Gus seconded. Motion carried.

Development Committee

We wrote a grant for Bank of Greene County requesting funding to redesign the children's activity room. Although we received \$1,000, we did not get as much as we'd hoped. Robert approached the Tryon Family Foundation who will give us \$750 for the project. There are two additional donors who will match these grants bringing the total to the required amount to purchase bookshelves.

Roberts asked that Board Members consider making a monthly contribution. A discussion ensued about the cost of fees associated with monthly credit card donations.

Gus made a motion to approve the Development Committee report. Hans seconded. Motion carried.

Strategic Planning Committee

No report this month.

Director's Report

Library operations are back to normal. Though staff members are not comfortable with the lack of a mask mandates, due to risk levels in Albany County, including a current state of emergency, we are still recommending that patrons wear masks, though they are not required. Circulation numbers and attendance are rising.

The removal of the dead tree out back is completed. Bat removal has also been completed.

There are three construction grants in the air now. Final reports for the 2019 and 2020 grants are due the end of June. Heidi has asked NYS for a one-year extension on the 2021 grant.

The Poetry Month events were a great success. The Story Walk is installed in the Town Park.

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

Old Business

None.

New Business

Heidi sent board members a copy of a letter for UHLS regarding the NYS Open Meeting Law in relation to video or hybrid meetings. Robert will speak with Tim at Upper Hudson for clarification on the new requirements.

Robert spoke with someone at the Greenville School District about finding ways to work more closely with the district. He will also approach Middleburg CSD. He also is proposing a standing Program Committee to be added to our by-laws. Gus has agreed to chair the committee.

Adjourn

Donna made a motion to adjourn. Judy seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

The next meeting of the Rensselaerville Library Board of Trustees will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Frisino