

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APRIL 23, 2024

TCPL Board Members Present: Melisa Sidle, President; Blixey Taetzsch, Liam Murphy, Lis Chabot, Shelley Wong, Kathy Weinberg, Mimi Townsend, Darrel Long, Nina Scholtz, Christina Brewington

Board Members excused: Marli Stahler, Jason Moore

Also Present: Leslie Tabor, Director; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director; Rich John, County Legislator

With a quorum, meeting convened at 4:04 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 24-23

A **MOTION** was made by N. Scholtz and seconded by B. Taetzsch to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 26, 2024, MINUTES DOC 24-24

A **MOTION** was made by L. Chabot and seconded by S. Wong to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixey Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #7 dated 4/4/24 and #8 dated 4/18/24 totaling \$121,584.96. I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment April 2024 bills in the amount of \$241,756.65 as listed in Abstracts #10, #11 and #12.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A huge thank you to Principal Account Clerk, Connie Clark, she does an amazing job! The big event this month was our RFID Ribbon Cutting on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Tabor thanked the Trustees, Foundation Directors, Friends, elected officials and more who showed up to celebrate the completion of our project.

Kerry and I had a professional development opportunity, we attended NY Council of Nonprofits Executive Director retreat. NYCON are leaders in delivering top-rate, innovative programs in almost every area of nonprofit operations and governance, helping nonprofits achieve sustainability and growth.

Friday I am participating in a Right to Read Panel at Cornell. I will be presenting my Annual Evaluation to staff in the May all staff meeting, Melisa Sidle and Lis Chabot in attendance.

### UPDATES FROM THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

President Sidle – Lis and I will be attending the May all staff meeting to gauge how staff take in what is being presented and get a chance to see Leslie in action. Sidle reminded trustees of the annual training of two hours, FLLS has great resources for continuing education.

Lis welcomed Christina and led a round of introductions around the room. Chabot mentioned they are responsible for the committee meetings roster and asked new trustees to think about which committee they would like to join.

### LIAISON REPORTS

**County** – John will sign the Conflict-of-Interest form. TCPL will be attending the Government Operations Committee on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. April 30<sup>th</sup> kicks off the budget season.

**Foundation** – Readathon 2024 is on till the end of April. This year’s event is smaller than usual, as we figure out a sustainable format and plan for future Readathons. We’re pleased to have attracted some new reader-fundraisers, while keeping longtime readers engaged.

The inaugural Silent Reading Party was a grand success! Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we were practically accosted by attendees asking us when the next one will be. The Events Committee is meeting next week to decide this and also fine-tune fundraising events plans for the remainder of the year.

The Rosen Fund, or Library Grant Cycle fund, for Summer Reading Program, administered by the Community Foundation of Tompkins County is woefully behind. Notification of grant awards has never taken place this late in the year. An e-newsletter went out last Friday from the Community Foundation announcing that the grant process is finished and listed the grant recipients on their website but no one from TCPL or the Foundation were notified or told the amount we were granted. After we inquired about this, Community Foundation staff informed us that they are “still in the process of processing applications and results will be sent in the next week or two.” Regardless, the Foundation is committed to providing support for Summer Reading.

Our audit is finally done and our financials have been shared with the Library’s auditors. It took longer than anticipated- our endowed donor funds are a real challenge to understand- but everything’s completed now.

Leslie and I learned a great deal and were sufficiently overwhelmed with valuable information at NYCON’s Executive Director’s retreat last week. Beyond the fat folder of resources we received and the other directors we met and interacted with, it was a good refresher on what NYCON can provide for its members. (The Foundation is a paid member of NYCON and we’re allowed to include Leslie in our membership.)

**Friends** – Tomorrow is library day at the booksale, libraries can go to the booksale and pick up books and the second day is for the school libraries, all books are free.

A **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by L. Chabot to adjourn at 4:43 pm.  
Approved unanimously.

Minutes gathered by Mary McKeon  
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Liam Murphy  
Secretary