

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DECEMBER 14, 2021

TCPL Board Members Present: Ingrid Jensen , President; Martha Hardesty, Blixly Taetzsch, Liam Murphy, Shelley Wong, Don Trotter, Nina Scholtz, Nina Miller, Jason Moore, Melisa Sidle

Board Members Excused: LaWanda Cook

Also Present: Teresa Vadakin, Interim Director; Megan Molloy, Head of Adult Services; Sarah O'Shea, Head of Youth Services; Michelle Benjamin, Business Manager; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Kerry Barnes; TCPL Foundation Interim Director, Amanda Champion; County Legislator

With a quorum now present, meeting convened at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 21-110

A **MOTION** was made by J. Moore and seconded by L. Murphy to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021 DRAFT MINUTES DOC 21-111

A **MOTION** was made by L. Murphy and seconded by B. Taetzsch to approve the minutes with minor corrections. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixly Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #24 dated 12/2/21 and #25 dated 12/16/21 totaling \$100,058.51. 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 December 2021 bills in the amount of \$201,222.97 as listed in Abstracts #35, #36 and #37.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENTS DOC 21-112

Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2022 RECOMMENDED BUDGET DOC 21-113

Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES OF TRUSTEES

Jensen recommended L. Murphy and Nina Miller whose current term ends in 2021, for three years beginning in January 2022. Approved Unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SLATE OF OFFICERS

Ingrid Jensen made a recommendation for the 2022 slate of officers on behalf of the Nominating Committee. As Co-Presidents – Martha Hardesty and Ingrid Jensen; Treasurer – Blix Taetzsch; Secretary- Melisa Sidle. Approved unanimously.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

Assistant Director Vadakin reflected back on 2021, and discussed how this year has been full of change and uncertainty and, the fact that library is still providing great services and is fully open to the community again is impressive. She also discussed the time line of reopening and the additional services, such as curbside, book bundles, etc.

She then looked ahead and discussed how telehealth services are being planned. And how this partnership with Cayuga Medical Center will be valuable for the community. Outreach visits with the Tompkins County Jail will also start in 2022 via Zoom. This partnership developed out of the “Literacy Inside and Out Initiative” and pre-Covid, outreach staff were visiting the jail monthly to facilitate literacy sessions, which included Reader’s Theatre, poetry reading, and a graphic novel book club. 2022 also brings the return of Sunday hours at the library. She thinks the community will be very happy to see this return.

Though circulation and door count numbers, are not at pre-Covid levels, she mentioned that the library is seeing a continuous increase in both areas. In 2019, the first Wednesday of the month, 1612 patrons visited the library. In 2021, the first Wednesday of the month, 726 patrons visited the library. In 2020, circulation was at 267,222 and in 2021, circulation is at 399,905. For reference, the library has responded to 17,214 reference questions. In 2019, that number was 33,946.

LIAISON REPORTS

County - A. Champion conveyed news of Cornell students going virtual and libraries closing due to the increase numbers of Covid-19, staff and faculty are still on campus.

Foundation – K. Barnes said the foundation was wrapping up the year, with a big surge of donations for the Annual Appeal. They have begun audit preliminary work while the audit will be finalized in February.

Friends – D. Trotter commented on the generosity of the community, with donations of high quality children’s materials. The friends had a pop-up sale on Saturday, it was very well received with 695 sold.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by J. Moore and seconded by D. Trotter to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:58 p.m. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by Nina Miller and seconded by L. Murphy to adjourn from Executive Session to public session at 5:19 p.m.

There being no further business, a **MOTION** was made by S. Wong and seconded by M. Sidle to adjourn Public Session at 5:20 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Recorded by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Melisa Sidle
Secretary