

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 16, 2021

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

Board Members Excused: Martha Hardesty

Also Present: Teresa Vadakin, Interim Director; Jennifer Schlossberg, Head of Access 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 4:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 21-103

A **MOTION** was made by J. Moore and seconded by S. Wong to approve the agenda with the additions of: Community Relations and Outreach Committee Report and Discussion of City Council. Approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 26, 2021 DRAFT MINUTES DOC 21-104

A **MOTION** was made by D. Trotter and seconded by L. Murphy to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

I, Treasurer, Blixty Taetzsch, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #22 dated 11/4/21 and #23 dated 11/18/21 totaling \$97,514.30. 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 November 2021 bills in the amount of \$522,773.86 as listed in Abstracts #32, #33 and #34.

APPROVAL OF TEEN CENTER POLICY DOC 21-105

There was a brief discussion of minor changes, and will be sent back to the Library Services and Policy Committee.

APPROVAL OF SERVICE ANIMALS DOC 21-106

Approved unanimously.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Liam Murphy, acting chair reported on bringing a proposal of the structure of the committee and

Ad-hoc topics to the committee. Community Relations and Outreach committee meets tomorrow, November 17th.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

Assistant Director Vadakin gave a reminder about December Meetings being earlier than usual due to the holiday. Dates are December 7th for Finance and Personnel and December 14th for the Board Meeting.

She gave an update on the new laptops for the Digital Lab, Evan was able to find 16 laptops that met our expectations last week. Computers and technology is hard to find right now due to pandemic affected supply chain issues. The new laptops have arrived and this will be really important for the digital lab, as we start programming in there again. Tom Fredette has found volunteers that will be offering tech help in there.

Meghan Molloy has taken over as Department Head of Adult Services. I have been working with Meghan closely.

Vadakin mentioned that Holiday Party planning is under way for the staff. We will have grab and go appetizers, desserts and this should work for all the staff. Grab and go made sense due to Covid and the varying comfort levels of the staff.

Vadakin mentioned that the Common Council voted against the 15,000 for funding Sundays, and due to this the Friends of the Library offered to support Sundays with a one-time Covid relief grant.

DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL

TCPL requested funding for Sundays from Ithaca City, the Common Council voted against funding Sunday. A brief discussion ensued regarding barriers to access and Sunday users.

LIAISON REPORTS

County - A. Champion announced the legislators will vote on the budget tonight. Champion informed everyone that they are working on the County Administrator search process, interview was a failure. They will start another search early in the new year. Champion said there are five new legislators so far, they are waiting for Dryden, Mike Lane is up by 2 votes.

Foundation – K. Barnes remarked today is officially her second day. Barnes thanked everyone who attended the “Ask A Librarian” event. The foundation is in the process of reaching out to business and property managers and invited them for a tour of the library. Barnes said the foundation is focused on the Annual Appeal, she thanked the trustees who are assisting in the process.

Friends – D. Trotter said the sale is over, the building is empty. They will be accepting donations until April 16 and the sale is May 7th. The Friends are in the process of taking donations and getting them on the shelves.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by B. Taetzsch and seconded by S. Wong to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by D. Trotter and seconded by L. Cook to adjourn from Executive Session to public session at 5:35 p.m.

There being no further business, a **MOTION** was made by I. Jensen and seconded by N. Miller to adjourn Public Session at 5:37 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Recorded by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by Melisa Sidle
Secretary