

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 25, 2025

TCPL Board Members Present: Kathy Weinberg, President; Lis Chabot, Darrell Long, Shelly Wong, Christina Brewington, Nina Scholtz, Jason Moore, Mimi Townsend, Sarah Clausen

Also Present: Leslie Tabor, Director; Tonya VanCamp, Business Manager; Kerry Barnes, TCPL Foundation Executive Director; Mary McKeon, Administrative Manager; Judd Karlman, AS Dept. Head; Brian Sasser, Communications Manager; Anthony Elia, Library Counsel; Rich John, County Legislator; Susan Currie, County Legislator

With a quorum, the meeting convened at 4:03 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 25-08

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attended the meeting and addressed the board:

Peter Wissoker
Alex Pasqualini
Jeremy Jordan
Kelly Doolittle
Chelsea Roberts
Rebecca Costello
Richard Entlich
Deidre Silverman
Btitta Lee
Shelby Buche
Jane Globman
Sheryl Swink
Justine Modica

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 28, 2025 MINUTES DOC 25-09

A **MOTION** was made by J. Moore and seconded by D. Long to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED BOARD MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2024 DOC 24-84

A MOTION was made by N. Scholtz and seconded by D. Long. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE NYS ANNUAL REPORT DOC 25-10

Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

I, Treasurer, Lisabeth Chabot, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed payroll #3 dated 2/6/25 and #4 dated 2/20/25 totaling \$125,465.89. 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 February 2025 bills in the amount of \$288,898.76 as listed in Abstracts #4, #5 and #6.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I'm still celebrating the success of our spectacular large events since the new year:

- Over **340** people attended our Lunar New Year Lion Dance event, with over **500** people total participating in our Lunar New Year programming. The year of the snake is one for the record books!
- **100+** people came to the Library to hear Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jonathan Eig talk about his book *King: A Life*. Another **250+** people have watched online and clips from the event have reached more than **2,000** people.
 - We garnered strong local coverage, including several Ithaca College students who wrote an outstanding article for [The Ithacan](#). Writer Kaleigh Banda has offered her time as a Foundation volunteer to support Brian!
 - I was very moved by this quote from Jon: *"It's amazing to walk into a library and see every seat filled," Eig said. "I think it's a sign that people really have a great hunger for moral leadership. They want to hear stories about leaders who were not in it for themselves or money or in it for fame. King is really somebody who speaks to our highest ideals. And I think there's a real yearning for that today."*
 - Jon was especially complimentary of our promotion of his event, saying "The event was everywhere – I saw it everywhere!" Great job, Brian!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

K. Weinberg urged the trustees to read "Top Ten Risk Management Exercises For Governing Boards of Libraries". Weinberg also reminded the trustees to fill out the Conflict of Interest form.

LIAISON REPORTS

County- R. John will follow-up on the bylaws. 2025 the legislature decided to have two liaisons, Susan Currie will now be joining us.

Foundation – More than 100 people came to TCPL to hear Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jonathan Eig speak about MLK and his book, “King: A Life.” As of this moment, 250 people have watched the program online, in spite of audio difficulties during the live webstream that night. Two groups of journalism students from Ithaca College representing the Ithacan newspaper and ICTV attended and reported. <https://theithacan.org/59272/news/pulitzer-prize-winning-author-speaks-at-tompkins-county-public-library/>

Big thanks to Friends board members Jay Janowsky and Bruce Need and Trustee Mimi Townsend for volunteering their services as greeters/ ushers, and to everyone who came out on a cold February Monday evening to meet Jonathan or watched from home.

The donation kiosk, “Ezra Coin-nell” was present at the Eig event and is currently on the library floor, near where the old self-check machines used to be until we figure out power source issues to give him a more prominent space on the Avenue of the Friends. You may notice that there is a camera attached- it is deactivated as we did not opt for the “photobooth” feature on this model. It will be covered to prevent any misunderstandings. Please check him out when you’re in the Library and share any feedback you have for us about him. We will continue to refine the layout and design and any glitches in the code.

Upcoming Foundation events include our next Silent Reading Party, taking place on Sunday, March 30th in the afternoon, most likely at Liquid State Brewing. READATHON 2025 will be taking place on Saturday, May 3rd. This year’s READATHON will be an in-person event at the Library and will feature both live readers and prerecorded videos.

We are also wrapping up our audit.

Friends – The Friends are in the spring sale cycle, regular donations are coming in, usually lighter in the spring. Donations are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9:00 – 12:00.

MOTION to adjourn meeting by D. Long and seconded by J. Moore at 5:14 p.m. Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by S. Wong and seconded by C. Brewington to move into Executive Session at 6:15pm . Approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** was made by D. Long and seconded by L. Chabot to adjourn Executive Session at 6:00pm. Approved unanimously.

Minutes by Mary McKeon
Administrative Manager

Endorsed by
Secretary