



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 28TH, 2019

PRESENT:

Sam Pinto, Vice President
Gemma Tansey, Secretary
Mary Ellen Guarini, Trustee
Barbara Mosca, Trustee

Tara Lannen-Stanton, Director

ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

Carol Arnone, President
Ralph Madalena, Library Attorney
Jill Lessard, Administrative Assistant

A. PUBLIC SESSION 6:30 P.M.

B. Call to Order by Sam Pinto @ 6:35p.m.

I. *Approval of Minutes, September 16th, 2019* – **Motioned by Trustee Mosca, seconded by Trustee Tansey, and unanimously approved.**

II. *Approval of Bills and Schedules 1150, 1151, 1152, and 1153*– **the Bills and Schedules were unanimously approved. Motioned by Trustee Guarini, seconded by Trustee Tansey.**

Of note: Trustee Pinto paused to acknowledge the passing of former Board Trustee Diane Parr, noting that she was a staunch supporter of the Library and a “cool” person. He asked for a moment of silence in her honor, before resuming the meeting. The Board stated they would like to put something in the West End branch in Diane’s memory.

III. *Director’s Report* – **The Board stated that they had all read the Director’s Report.** .

IV. *Staff Reports* – In response to Trustee Mosca’s inquiry, the Director advised that all staff had either completed or were close to competing their required CEU’s. **There were no further questions or comments.**

V. *Correspondence* – there were no Correspondence items.

VI. *Old Business* - there were no Old Business Items.

VII. *New Business*

1. *Homeschooling group request to hold private fee-based program* - Trustee Pinto asked if there was any members of the Public that would like to speak about this item. Ms. Kerry Dalto introduced herself and gave a brief description about a company called Snapology, which does robotics themed classes for children. Ms. Dalto advised that as per Library policy, she was asking for the Board’s permission to hold such a program at the Library. She further advised that she herself would not be making any money; all proceeds would go to Snapology. In response to Trustee Guarini, Ms. Dalto advised that registration would be done through various Facebook groups and that she would handle that. In response to Trustee Tansey, Ms. Dalto advised that the class would be held only once, on 11/12/19 from 3-4 pm (a date/time she had previously worked out with YS Librarian Jennifer Firth) and that the fee would be \$20. In response to Trustee Pinto, the Director advised that she had brought this before the Board for a vote as it was a private program, not open to the general public, that would be charging a fee. Trustee Pinto advised about the Library Open Meeting Policy, and there was some discussion about such. He asked the Director for her thoughts. The Director advised that while she was conflicted due to the program being “closed”, she felt it should be allowed with the stipulation that if there



were open spots on the day of the program that it be opened to the general public. Ms. Dalto advised that registration was currently maxed out at (18). In response to Trustee Guarini Ms. Dalto stated that going forward she was interested in using the Library as a meeting place for the homeschooled group, though not for fee based programs. Trustee Pinto asked that if a future fee based program occur, that it be marketed in Channels so as to be open to all; Ms. Dalto had no issues with that. Trustee Pinto then inquired as to the group's willingness to accommodate children with financial hardships who may want to participate in future programs but could not afford to, seeing as how the Library is a public space; it was noted that the Girl Scouts are already doing so. There was no clear answer to his question. **Trustee Mosca motioned to approve, seconded by Trustee Guarini, and unanimously approved.**

2. *Banking document signatures needed (PayPal dedicated account) – was signed by Trustee Pinto.*

VIII. *Good and Welfare* –Mr. Michael Wynn, a patron who had been temporarily banned, came in to speak before the Board and ask for his Library privileges be reinstated. He stated his case, noting that he felt he was being unfairly targeted by the security guard as well as the janitor (night cleaner) for instances of speaking on his phone in the corner of the Art atrium, as well as making minimal noise while using the computers. The Director pointed out, that the reason he was banned was not due to those issues, but rather because he made a threat against staff. Trustee Pinto pointed out that there is a zero tolerance policy for such behavior. He noted that there were two different versions of the story; the one that Mr. Wynn was telling and the one that was told by staff, and that Mr. Wynn's suspension was based off of written staff statements. Trustee Pinto respectfully stated that it was the Board's obligation to ensure the safety of staff and patrons, and to make sure there was no risk for the future. Mr. Wynn replied that he was just trying to find a job, and that if he were to encounter the janitor (night cleaner) in the future he would move in the other direction. Trustee Pinto stated that the Board was in a difficult position, and the he wanted to make sure that Mr. Wynn understood, and admitted, that his behavior had been unacceptable. Trustee Mosca stated that her feeling was that if staff were to ask a patron to leave the Library, the patron should first be asked to fill out a patron comment / complaint form to make sure all sides are properly documented in writing. The Director noted that current Library policy allowed for the Librarian in Charge to ask a patron to leave, and that it was her understanding that that is what occurred on the night in question. Mr. Wynn responded that it was in fact the janitor (night cleaner) that had told him to leave. The Director advised that she would look into that further and speak to the janitor (night cleaner). Trustee Mosca asked that the Director make sure all staff was aware of the patron comment / complaint form. Mr. Wynn asked that the Board realize that he was not going out of his way to cause any harm or trouble. Trustee Pinto asked if Mr. Wynn was familiar with the Library's Patron Code of Conduct; when Mr. Wynn advised that he was not Trustee Pinto asked that a copy be provided to him. Trustee Mosca stated her opinion that everyone deserved a second chance, noting that this was Mr. Wynn's first such issue; she advised him to not let there be any further issues. Trustee Guarini agreed with Trustee Mosca. Trustee Pinto again stated to Mr. Wynn, that he wanted him to be perfectly clear in understanding it was not the Security Guard or the night cleaner that had caused the problem, rather it was Mr. Wynn and his threatening reaction to them. Trustee Guarini noted that in her public library experience, that a security guard would not even become aware of any issues / potential issues unless they are brought to his/her attention by a member of the staff or public. Mr. Wynn advised that that in this particular instance and in his experience with this security guard, that was not the case. Trustee Pinto then stated that the majority of the Board was willing to give Mr. Wynn a second chance on a zero tolerance probationary basis. He further stated that the Board and staff would make sure Mr. Wynn was made fully aware of the quiet spaces, places where phone use and/or talking is allowed, and provided with a copy of the Patron Code of Conduct policy. Mr. Pinto informed Mr. Wynn that zero tolerance meant that the police would be called if there were any issues involving threats, perceived danger, etc. Mr. Wynn stated that he understood and agreed to these terms. The Director stated that she would review the Patron Code of Conduct with Mr. Wynn upon his next visit to the Library and have him sign off on it to indicate his understanding, stating that threats against staff and/or other patrons were taken very seriously. Trustee Pinto advised that once Mr. Wynn had



completed his review of the Policy with the Director, and signed off on it, his ban would be lifted.

*****Of Note: Trustee Pinto wanted it put into the record, that a comment made by Mr. Wynn regarding the Security Guard was a misstatement; the security guard left on his own accord and his departure had nothing to do with any incidents or unsatisfactory job performance.***

Joanne Philips (J-Bird) was the next member of the Public to speak and addressed the Roxx Festival, which came into existence approximately 9 years at the suggestion of former Director George Trepp, and which Ms. Philips has produced ever since. She addressed the Board's concern that this year, the Roxx Festival happened to fall on the same weekend as the City of Long Beach's Fall Festival. Ms. Philips advised that originally, the two events were scheduled for different weekends, the Roxx Festival always occurring around the third weekend in October. This year, however, Ms. Philips had to reschedule as she was receiving a national award from the Long Island Arts Council the same weekend as the Roxx was scheduled for. Note, that Ms. Philips was made aware of this award and resulting conflict almost ten months ago; she immediately reached out to the Library Programmer Edie Kalickstein. Together they rescheduled to 10/12 and 10/13, apparently unaware of the conflict with the Fall Festival as it was still ten months out. Ms. Philips then advised the Board that the 2020 Roxx Festival is already booked with the Library, noting that she had confirmed with the City of Long Beach that there were no conflicts with other events. She stated that she was aware her Festival was pending Board approval at the June 2020 meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Philips for the update, and congratulated her on her award.

There was another member of the Public, Dr. Patton, who stated that he had some suggestions on the Library collection. It was pointed out by Trustee Guarini, that certain libraries specialize in certain areas i.e. history; if there were a specific title Dr. Patton wanted to access he could put in a request for an inter-library loan. Dr. Patton then stated that he thought that the Library was discarding books too quickly; the Board disagreed with that assessment but said they would follow up with the Librarians to ensure proper procedures were being followed. Trustee Pinto suggested that Dr. Patton reach out to the Friends of the Library (FOTL) and work with them on this project. Trustee Mosca suggested that a paragraph be placed in Channels; the Director liked this idea. After continued discussion amongst Dr. Patton, the Board, and the Director, it was decided that Dr. Patton would compile a list of recommended titles and send it to the Director.

The Director mentioned that she and Trustee Tansey had discussed taking up a collection for Trustee Arnone, to purchase a "welcome home" gift of some sort. Trustee Pinto stated that he thought this was a good idea, but that it should be done informally without any Board resolution.

IX. *CSEA* – Trustee Mosca asked about an ongoing investigation being conducted by the Library Attorney; the Director advised that the Attorney would address this at the November 7th, meeting.

X. *Personnel* – the following Personnel items were **motioned for approval by Trustee Mosca, seconded by Trustee Guarini, and unanimously approved:**

1. Retirement of Liz Goldstein, P/T Library Assistant ****It was noted that letters had been sent out to the current Civil Service list (September 2019); one had been returned as "would not accept" due to insufficient salary.**
2. Appointment of George Ramos to F/T YS Librarian
3. Appointment of Logan Cooperberg to P/T Librarian in the West End

XI. *Date and Time of Next Meeting is Monday, November 7th, 2019 @ 12:00pm Public Session; will adjourn into Executive Session if needed – was unanimously approved, with the stipulation that if Trustee Arnone wanted to utilize a video conference (see below) she needed to give seven (7) days notice. Motioned by Trustee Pinto, seconded by Trustee Guarini, unanimously approved.*

*****Of note: The Director brought up the possibility of having a video conference so that Trustee Arnone could attend the***



11/7/19 meeting. The Director stated her opinion that this technology should be made available, if not now then at some point in the near future. Trustee Tansey agreed with this opinion. Trustee Guarini also agreed, further stating that seeing as Trustee Arnone is the current Board President, and physically incapable of attending Board meetings at the present time, that this option should be offered to her. In response to Trustee Mosca's question, the Director advised there would be no additional cost incurred to the Library, as we already own TeamViewer which has the capability to video conference. The majority of the Board agreed with this suggestion.

XII. *Adjournment* – the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. **Motioned by Trustee Tansey, seconded by Trustee Pinto, and unanimously approved.**