

Minutes: Board of Trustees, The Field Library, Monthly Meeting

May 16, 2024

Present: President Most
Vice President Bloom
Treasurer Noble
Secretary Fortino
Interim Director Falcone

Trustees Present: Foster, Galella, Kelley, Smith, Srinivasan

Trustees Excused: Alexander, Douglas

Guest Present: Riley

Meeting called to order 7:00PM

Public comment: None

Adoption of Minutes

Previous minutes to meeting: April 29, 2024.

Correction: There was no super majority present to take vote on The Tax Cap Resolution. Moved to be accepted by Kelley seconded by Noble. Unanimously adopted.

Director's Report: Interim Director Falcone met with another WLS marketing person, Marcelo Rodriquez for outreach to the Latino community.

There's movement to have online library card registration.

Discussion on summer Sunday schedule on whether to continue with summer Sunday hours from 1pm-4pm. Current data indicates that July and August are busy times for patrons using the library. Interim Director Falcone will be working on staff schedule for the summer months.

Treasurer's Report: Investment fell by 2.2% in April. Our investments are now up only 0.43% year to date. Budget: As of April, numbers are running ahead of budget. This is driven primarily by salaries running below because of vacancies and Ed Falcone's April vacation.

Statistics: This month statistics are trending strong. Circulation is up in eBooks and streaming.

WLS Report: Battle of the Books will be held on Saturday, October 26 at Ossining High School. Volunteers needed for this event. Legislative Breakfast Series June 12, 2024, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM, Pound Ridge Library & June 17, 2024, 9:00 AM-10:00AM, Larchmont Public Library. July 10, 2024, 2:00 PM-3:30 PM, Montrose/Hendrick Hudson Free Library. Upcoming Trustees Institutes and the links to register will be forwarded to Board of Trustees by the week of May 26.

Friends of the Library: No report. There needs to be follow up on the “Mobile Kitchen”: Who is buying the cart (the library or the Friends of the Library) and who will pay for anything above and beyond the \$15,000 that is being raised for its purchase?

Grants: Director’s Report. On May 20, 2024, Interim Director Falcone filed a grant from the office of NYS Senator Pete Harckham for \$10,769.00 to be used towards the Library’s Spanish collection.

Interim Director Falcone will also work to make an application for the Annual State Construction Grant due on the first week in August.

Committee Reports

Audit: Policy was received. The audit committee will meet on Wednesday, May 29th with the auditor. Audit will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the June meeting.

Executive Committee: No report

Facilities Committee: Director’s Report

Finance Committee: Presented 2025 Proposed Budget for a vote. Noble stated that the finance committee proposed an \$80,000 increase, which is a 4.7% increase over 2024. This increase was driven primarily by a conservative increase in salaries; expected healthcare cost increases of approximately 13%; and a \$28,000 in funding for programming and materials, 35% of the tax levy increase is attributable to the increase in the amount budgeted for programming and materials.

Fund-raising Committee: Focus on the Peekskill Film Festival continues to move forward. Contract has been signed. Jacob Burns Film Center will be working on promoting the Film Festival. The fund-raising event on Friday, May 10th at Gleasons raised \$800.00.

Governance: No report

Human Resource: No report

Nominating: No report

Website: WLS is reviewing draft RFP. It is anticipated that an RFP will be presented at the Board of Trustees’ June meeting.

Discussion Items:

Old Business: none

New Business

Tax Cap Resolution: This was the Board of Trustees’ third attempt to bring the Tax Cap Resolution to a vote, due to a lack of a super majority for the last two Board meetings.

TAX CAP RESOLUTION OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FIELD LIBRARY

We the undersigned, being the President and Secretary of The Field Library, a corporation organized and existing pursuant to an absolute charter granted by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, hereby certify that the following is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than three-fourths of the whole number of trustees at a meeting held on the 16th of May 2024, and that such resolution remains in full force and effect.

WHEREAS, the adoption of this 2025 budget for The Field Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of The Field Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2025 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on May 16th, 2024.

Motion to adopt resolution on Tax Cap Resolution by Srinivasan seconded by Noble.
Unanimously voted.

Moved to accept 2025 Budget by Srinivasan seconded by Noble. Unanimously voted.

Moved to adopt Ballot Proposition by Smith seconded by Bloom. Unanimously voted.

Petition form will be sent out to the Trustees by next week. Only registered voters residing in Peekskill can sign the petition. Each Trustee, as a registered Peekskill voter, must witness the signatures and then date and sign the petition sheet when complete. Please note a Trustee cannot sign and witness the same petition; a Trustee can sign a separate petition sheet and have someone else witness a Trustee's signature. Petitions are due to the Interim Director by June 7th.

Moved to authorize Ed Falcone to be Trustee of the Principal 401K by Kelley seconded by Noble. Unanimously voted.

Moved to adjourn to Executive Session by Srinivasan seconded by Noble.
Unanimously approved.

Purpose of Executive Session: Search Committee Report

Moved to exit Executive Session by Bloom seconded by Noble. Unanimously approved.

Moved to adjourn meeting by Kelley seconded by Srinivasan. Unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

Next meeting June 20, 2024

Submitted by Catalina Fortino