

**NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday November 12, 2015**

Chuck Burke, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Haina Just-Michael, President (excused)  
Emery Schweig Vice President (excused)  
George K. Walters, Secretary (excused)  
Gregory T. Varian  
Quentin S. Jacobs  
Charles Burke, Jr.  
Damon Maher

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Geoffino  
Jean Manning  
Mary Kane Pasacreta

WLS REPRESENTATIVE

LaRuth Gray (excused)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

RDRXR: Chuck Burke provided a recap/update relative to the latest developments with RDRXR. He related that very little movement has occurred relative to the RDRXR situation. Chuck indicated that negotiations regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are still under review relative to issues regarding the creation of an amended RFP as well as the selection of real estate consultant and a methodology for payment for services rendered, financial support from RDRXR for consulting/support services, and potential milestone and timetable components. Chuck also reported that the library engaged the legal services of James Staudt of McCullough, Goldberger and Staudt in order to obtain legal counsel relative to the impact that the proposed “form zoning” regulations would have upon the library in the future.

Damon Maher moved that the no conversations of any consequence should further occur between the library and RDRXR until RDRXR places \$65,000 in escrow for library usage. This motion was not seconded and thus failed to receive approval.

Additional conversations occurred between Board members (and members of the public) relative to the RDRXR situation occurred during the following Public Discussion section of the meeting.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

The following individuals spoke during this time:

Laraine Karl 43 Belmont Avenue  
Laura Case Cinderquill96@gmail.com  
Geoffrey Smith gdslaw@gmail.com  
Marjorie Sachs 14 Lakeside Drive  
Jay Wegimont Jwegimont@gmail.com  
Emery Schweig 162 Clinton Avenue

#### WLS REPORT:

No report was made as LaRuth Gray was absent.

#### MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING:

The October 8th meeting minutes were reviewed by the Trustees. Quentin Jacobs moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Greg Varian and approved.

#### EXPENDITURES:

Vouchers previously reviewed by various Board members were found to be in order and co-signed appropriately. Board approved payment of the following vouchers:

<u>October Vouchers</u>	
Bond – Capital	\$813,736.98
Health Care	\$39,070.82
Contractual	\$127,947.70
Materials	\$10,846.72
Petty Cash	\$145.56
Gifts and Donations	\$12,787.72
Various	\$2,723.32
Total Reported	\$1,007,258.82

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

Documents relating to the library's fiscal situation were distributed but no report was made in accordance with the wishes of the Board. A detailed discussion of the Library's financial status was deferred by the consensus of the board with a full report to be made at its January meeting.

#### PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Acting President Chuck Burke reported on the ongoing discussion between the Library Board and Administration and NRPL Foundation. Of specific interest is the Foundation's desire to access more tangible projects that would be conducive to successful fundraising

efforts. Chuck declared that library is committed to explore this goal collaboratively with the Foundation in order to create worthy library projects that meet the needs of the community and likely to achieve fund raising campaign success.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Tom Geoffino reported on the following issues:

+ HCL Grant: New York State Construction Grant Our FY2013/14 \$11,600 Huguenot Children's Library grant application (relating to the replacement of lighting and the reconfiguration of storage space at the Huguenot Children's Library) is nearly complete with the storage component now in the design stage. Our goal is to see the installation occur in January 2016.

+ Adult First Floor Grant: Our FY 2013/14 New York State Construction Main Library \$60,000 grant application (relating to the renovation of adult areas on the first floor) is nearly complete - the furniture/shelving along with carpeting will be finalized and ordered in the near future. The first phase of this project has already begun relative to the shifting of various collections throughout our facility.

+ Chiller Grant Opportunities: Our FY 2015/16 \$56,622 New York State Construction Grant for the Main Library Chiller Replacement Project is awaiting approval from the New York State Library and Dormitory Authority of the State of New York approval. Initial payments will likely arrive in September 2016.

The New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Grant (to assist in the purchase of the chiller) for the amount of \$225,000 is still pending in relation to a decision – New York State has announced that such a decision should be forthcoming in December 2015.

+ Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library: The Friends will hold its monthly Board meeting on November 18th with its annual Holiday Book Sale next scheduled for December 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Library has submitted its 2016 grant request to the Friends for their consideration. The budget calls for \$54,250 to be utilized for children, teen and adult programming, local history projects and collection development initiatives. The Library continues to assist the Friends in their Book Store fundraising efforts. 2 grant efforts are now complete – a \$20,000 Dreyfus Foundation grant and a \$3,000 District Rotary grant. Both grants have been submitted with decisions expected in the near future.

+ NRPL Foundation: The next Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### PROJECT MANAGER REPORT:

Roxanne Neilson, Project Manager, was unable to attend the meeting.

#### PERSONNEL REPORT:

No report was made.

#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Chair Quentin Jacobs updated Board members surrounding the extraordinary delays related to the Memorial Highway Entrance project. He indicated he will schedule a meeting of the Committee in the near future to address this situation and other issues tied to this matter.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS, FOUNDATION, FRIENDS AND HUGUENOT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**FINANCE, TREASURY AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**POLICY COMMITTEE:**

No report was made.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

No report was made.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

New Foundation Board Members: Damon Maher moved the recent appointment of New Rochelle Public Library Foundation Board members Amy Brunell Bass, Timothy C. Idoni and Jon William Garrow be accepted, seconded by Quentin Jacobs and approved.

Passport Acceptance Center: Tom Geoffino provided an update regarding our library efforts to obtain permission to create a Passport Acceptance Center in our library. Such a service in our facility would allow our residents and others as well, to apply for a passport – a service not currently available. Tom is working with the Connecticut Passport Agency (CPA) to further explore this opportunity. A meeting in January 2016 is in the process of tentatively being scheduled with CPA staff.

Thanksgiving Parade: It is likely our library will not have a presence in the 2015 New Rochelle Thanksgiving Parade but next year's parade should witness a NRPL

“community” entry in the form of a yet undetermined library themed float involving the participation of interested Foundation, Friends, PHCL, Library Board and staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Burke, Jr.,

Secretary