

**NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday August 8, 2019**

Dierdra Clark, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Dierdra Gray Clark, President  
Whitney Barrat, Vice President (absent)  
Daniel Bonnet, Secretary  
Chuck Burke (absent)  
Yadira Ramos-Herbert  
Sarah Langlois (absent)  
Beth Accocela

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Geoffino  
Jean Manning  
Yesika Torres

WLS REPRESENTATIVE

Francis Okelo

NEW BUSINESS:

NY STATE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS APPROVAL

Relative to our upcoming FY2018/19 New York State Library Construction Grant application for funding support in the replacement of the Main Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Renovation Project: Phase 2, the following action was taken:

Motion was made by Dierdra Gray Clark to agree to the assurances as stipulated by the New York State Education Department in relation to the New York State Library Construction Grant applications for the Main Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Renovation Project: Phase 2, seconded by Yadira Ramos-Herbert and approved.

Motion was made by Dierdra Gray Clark to submit the Smart Growth Impact Statement as required by the New York State Education Department in relation to the New York State Library Construction Grant applications for the Main Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Renovation Project: Phase 2, seconded by Daniel Bonnet and approved.

Motion was made by Dierdra Gray Clark to declare that the Main Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Renovation Project: Phase 2 qualifies as State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Type II actions thus classifying the proposed restorations and use of the above land as requiring no further review under SEQRA and its implementing regulations, seconded by Daniel Bonnet and approved.

Relative to our upcoming FY2018/19 New York State Library Construction Grant application for funding support in the Huguenot Children's Library (HCL) Stairway Replacement Project, the following action was taken:

Motion was made by Dierdra Gray Clark to agree to the assurances as stipulated by the New York State Education Department in relation to the New York State Library Construction Grant applications for the HCL Stairway Replacement Project, seconded by Daniel Bonnet and approved.

Motion was made by Dierdra Gray Clark to submit the Smart Growth Impact Statement as required by the New York State Education Department in relation to the New York State Library Construction Grant applications for the HCL Stairway Replacement Project, seconded by Daniel Bonnet and approved.

Motion was made by Dierdra Gray Clark to declare that the HCL Stairway Replacement Project qualifies as State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Type II actions thus classifying the proposed restorations and use of the above land as requiring no further review under SEQRA and its implementing regulations, seconded by Daniel Bonnet and approved.

Tom Geoffino briefly outlined the parameters of both of the grant applications. The HCL Stairway Replacement Project is relatively straightforward and will provide for the replacement of the (unsafe and poorly designed) stairway connecting HCL 1<sup>st</sup> floor with its lower level. However, the Main Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Renovation Project: Phase 2 is more complex and will build on and supplement the efforts to be accomplished in Phase 1. Phase 2 will include: replacing and/or adding our Information Desk and computer workstation furniture (adding public computers and a computer/scanner), desk and carrels (adding power and chairs too...), numerous shelving units (and adding end panels to the stack shelving units), guard station as well reorganizing the Microform area (and adding a microform e-image printer) and creating a newly established Business Center and Periodical / Newspaper / Charging area. Also included will be new carpeting, room painting, and electrical and low voltage services.

OLD BUSINESS:

WLS REPORT:

Mr. Okelo made no report as the WLS Board of Trustees is inactive during the months of July and August.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report was made as it was integrated into the Director's Report.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Tom Geoffino reported that our Summer Reading Game/Summer Programming has been adjudged to be very successful given the number of participants and positive feedback. Specific information will be shared with the Board at its September meeting. Tom also highlighted the Friends of New Rochelle Public Library ongoing and significant financial support of the library for 2019. In total, the Friends have contributed over \$52,000 to date for library programming, collection development efforts and other assorted initiatives. The newly established Friday Night Teen Programming pilot was discussed as well – a series of programs began with smaller numbers but achieving satisfaction with its teen clients. This program may continue in the future after an assessment takes place in early Fall 2019.

## POLICY COMMITTEE:

Chair Yadira Ramos-Herbert reported that the Policy Committee met and made the following recommendations:

+ Fund Balance Policy: The Committee has requested that Library Administration provide quarterly Fund Balance status reports to the Board for consideration at its future meetings.

+ Sexual Harassment Policy: The Board agreed in principal to adopt the policy as recommended by the State of New York but requested Tom Geoffino customize the document in order that the names and positions of appropriate library staff be represented in the approved document. Tom will furnish this updated document to the Board prior to the September Board meeting with the Board taking action at this meeting to approve the updated policy.

+ Immigration Enforcement Policy: The Committee detailed the library's importance in the New Rochelle community and its designation as a "safe place" for all residents, especially the City's youth. Of particular concern is that ICE may choose to conduct visits to our facility with the expectation of removing (for the purposes of legal action) individuals it deems are in violation of Federal law. Unlike schools, libraries are not considered "sensitive" (as defined by ICE) and so are eligible for this kind of action. The Committee respectfully disagrees with this interpretation as it believes libraries are a place of lifelong learning and therefore is recommending adoption of a policy designed to protect library users from ICE "visits to our library facilities. Much discussion ensued. Yadira Ramos-Herbert moved that the Immigration Enforcement Policy be adopted, seconded by Daniel Bonnet and approved.

+Legacy Gifts: The Committee chose to take no action regarding the proposal to direct all potential financial gifts towards either of the Library's advocacy/fund raising partners.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

The following individual spoke during this time:

Dorothy Oliver	162 Clinton Avenue New Rochelle
Donna Harris-West	74 Chatsworth Place New Rochelle
Katherine Apotherica	1 Bergholz Drive New Rochelle
Martin Sanchez	261 Sickles Avenue New Rochelle

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Bonnet  
Secretary