

NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday January 11, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Dierdra Gray Clark, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Dierdra Gray Clark, President
Whitney Barrat , Vice President
Daniel Bonnet, Secretary
Charles Burke, Jr
Corey Galloway
Sarah Langlois
Beth Acocella

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Geoffino
Jean Manning
Yesika Torres

WLS REPRESENTATIVE

Francis Okelo

WLS REPORT:

Francis Okelo had no report as WLS has not met since December 2020. He will provide a report at the February Board meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Dierdra Clark reported that the library purchased the board portal software OnBoard in order to improve the efficiency of Board and administration activity. Dierdra indicated her upcoming priorities involve working with the Budget Committee and administration staff in order to create FY 2021/22 budget options for Board consideration She also indicated the Board will begin the process of negotiating the expiring employee collective bargaining agreement with library union leaders.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Tom Geoffino reported on the following issues:

+ Library Operations:

Our library continues to be closed to public access due to the pandemic (similar to the vast majority of WLS libraries) but service to the public is consistent and strong. We are very busy with curbside service to patrons (720 transactions in December) as well as

answering patron inquires via phone and email communications. Virtual programming is popular with our younger patrons and their families. Our electronic content (books, audio, magazines, and streaming services) continue to see high usage.

+ Main Library Gateway (Circulation Desk/Area) Project: This project is nearly complete with some final lobby improvements slated for completion within the next 6 weeks.

+ Main Library 2nd Floor Renovation Project-Phase 1: This project is moving forward with furniture equipment and other improvements nearly complete. Unfortunately, the pandemic has delayed installation of most of the furniture. We are hoping to close this grant out in April

+ HCL Furnace/Boiler Replacement Project: The project has been successfully completed but we are unable to close out this grant as we have remaining unspent monies. Conversation are underway with New York State Library staff in order to implement a solution to this issue.

+ Main Library 2nd Floor Renovation Project - Phase 2: The grant funds were made available to us in November 2020. We are beginning to plan for the implementation of the 2nd phase of this project but will not take action until phase 1 is complete.

+ HCL Stairway Replacement Project: The grant funds arrived in November 2020. Construction is underway with the removal of the aging unsafe stairway scheduled for late January. The new stairway will likely be installed by late February.

+ EDAP Grant: Access to this grant, as sponsored by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, is pending until we are able to close out the Gateway Project.

+ Israel Forum Collection: Daniel Bonnet will report on this exciting new effort as a part of his Community Relations Committee report.

+ Friends of NRPL: The Friends Book Store is currently closed due to the closure of our library. Donations are not being accepted as few Friends are currently able to volunteer.

+ NRPL Foundation: The Foundation Board will hold its next meeting on January 19th. The Foundation is planning on adding 5 new Board members to its organization with Library Board endorsement scheduled for its February meeting. On February 4th, the Cocktails and Conversations series will feature “The Trial of the Chicago Seven.” Planning is moving forward for the City Wide Scavenger Hunt scheduled for June 5th.

PERSONNEL REPORT:

Tom Geoffino reported that, after much prolonged effort, the upgrade of the Community & Services Support Specialist and the Social Media / Videographer positions is expected to be upgraded, per Board resolution, at the Civil Service Commission meeting on January 27th. Board members Chuck Burke and Daniel Bonnet and Tom Geoffino will meet on January 28th in order to screen the candidates for the Communications and Marketing Coordinator position. It is anticipated interviews will begin in February.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Chair Dierdra Clark reported that the Budget Committee is planning to meet in January in order to begin work on the formulation of the FY 2021/22 Budget proposal.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Chair Sarah Langlois reported that the Committee (along with CROC) met on December 22nd in order to discuss the Building Audit and the need to prioritize projects (cited in the document) that require immediate attention relative to facility functionality and safety. This task is proving to be difficult for Committee and CROC members. As a result, the Committee is seeking to utilize the services of Architectural Preservation Studio (APS), author of the Building Audit, to provide leadership in the creation of a document that will detail facility priorities in the context of a phased plan approach. A meeting with staff in order to elicit their facility concerns has been scheduled for January 20th. Much discussion ensued in relation to the “next steps” needed to be taken in order to determine a plan of action with an attached realistic time table and cost estimation for each element in the plan. Additional conversations took place regarding the viability of our facility relative to the many costly infrastructure repair/replacement /improvements necessary for its future success as well as “fitting” these crucial decisions into a new strategic/long range plan. President Dierdra Clark asked Sarah Langlois to investigate the possibility of APS providing a priority focused plan of action for these facility projects. If not possible, she requested that other qualified firms be found to assist in this process. Sarah Langlois indicated that the Buildings & Grounds Committee will address this issue at its January 26th meeting and will report back to the Board at its February meeting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, FOUNDATION, FRIENDS AND HUGUENOT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Chair Daniel Bonnet reported on addition of the Israel Forum Collection to our library. Donated by the Israeli Consulate of New York (with great assistance provided by former Board member Haina Just-Michael), this collection of nearly 300 children, teen and adult titles have been curated by library staff and include a variety of topics pertaining to culture, history, economics, agriculture, fiction, homemaking, fashion, exercise, and more. Future shared programming related to these (and other) topics is expected to be scheduled in the future. A Zoom program to celebrate this arrangement will occur via Zoom on January 21st and feature a host of local and Israeli dignitaries.

FINANCE, TREASURY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:

No report was made.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Dierdra Clark moved that upon the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Trustees does hereby increase the salaries of the pages (see chart below) per the New York State 2021 Minimum Wage Increase regulation, seconded by Chuck Burke and approved.

	Old Salary			New Salary		
DeNicolo, Dawn			\$13.25			\$14.25
Gayosso Alvarez, Beatriz			\$13.00			\$14.00
Hernandez, Jessica			\$13.44			\$14.44
Ouammou, Malak			\$13.00			\$14.00
Johnson-Smith, DeAra			\$13.20			\$14.20
Ochoa-Ramirez, Estafani			\$13.00			\$14.00
Moraga, Urania N.			\$14.30			\$15.30
Varghese, Leena A.			\$13.00			\$14.00

POLICY COMMITTEE:

No report was made.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Chair Whitney Barret reported that the Committee is ready to reengage with Public Works Partnership regarding the Needs Assessment effort.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Marjorie Sachs 14 Lakeside Drive

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Bonnet
Secretary