

**NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday June 10, 2021**

Dierdra Gray Clark, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

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

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Geoffino
Jean Manning
Yesika Torres

WLS REPRESENTATIVE

Francis Okelo (absent)

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING:

The May Meeting minutes and Budget Hearing Minutes were reviewed by the Trustees. Daniel Bonnet moved that both sets of minutes be approved, seconded by Whitney Barrat and approved.

WLS REPORT:

No report was made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:50 pm, Dierdra Clark moved that the Library Board convene an Executive Session in order to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Corey Galloway and approved.

At 8:17 pm, Dierdra Clark moved that the Library Board end its Executive Session, seconded by Whitney Barrat and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Dierdra Clark welcomed prospective Board member Lucille Renwick to the Library Board – and also congratulated Lucille on her recent election victory. Dierdra highlighted the Library's successful Budget vote and thanked the Board, staff and New Rochelle community for its contributions in this effort. Reflecting on her last Board

meeting, she charged the Board with the critical task of continuing to work towards a solution regarding the crucial issue of the maintenance of the Main Library facility.

Daniel Bonnet moved that the FY 2021/2022 Board meeting schedule be approved, as amended, seconded by Whitney Barrat and approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Tom Geoffino reported on the following issues:

+ Library Operations: Reopening of Main and HCL Libraries: The Library reopened on May 10th. June 21st will witness the implementation of the curtailed library schedule of hours prior to its closure in December 2021 along with full access to our library via all 3 public entrances. Activity levels can be characterized as “quiet” at this point but staff have noted incremental daily increases in traffic. Regulations regarding mask wearing and appropriate distances are strictly enforced. Limited numbers of individuals will be allowed into the library facilities along with the return of some public tables and seating as well as limited computer access, printing, scan machine and copier machine service. We will continue our successful tradition of offering summer reading programs for children, teens and adults. Summer programs are scheduled to take place outside (in addition to some “interior virtual programming) with a tent and café furniture in place in our Children’s Garden area. The Huguenot Children’s Library patio area will host all programming efforts in that facility. Our theater, meeting rooms and study rooms are available for public use but with limited numbers allowed in these spaces. Curbside service ended on June 1st. Future additional adjustments will occur as appropriate given the circumstances. Many notable achievements were accomplished during the library’s physical closure in relation to the significant deaccessioning of dated and unused library print/non-print materials implemented by Adult Services and support staff along with the subsequent re-shelving of various collection. Carpeting and repainting of the Children’s area was completed and much progress was achieved in the comprehensive efforts to renovate the 2nd floor adult services area. Much discussion ensued.

+ Main Library 2nd Floor Renovation Project-Phase 1: This project is nearly complete. Unfortunately, the pandemic has delayed installation of most of the furniture. Our goal remains to close this grant out in July/August.

+ Main Library 2nd Floor Renovation Project - Phase 2: The grant funds were made available to us in November 2020. We are rapidly moving forward on all fronts in the implementation of the 2nd phase of this project as Phase 1 is nearly complete. Some furniture and equipment have been installed with other elements ordered and yet other components still under consideration prior to ordering. At this point in time, we hoping to close this grant in September/October.

+ HCL Furnace/Boiler Replacement Project: The project has been successfully completed but we are still unable to close out this grant as we have remaining unspent monies. New York State Library staff have given us permission to spend our remaining funds in the installation of new LED exterior lighting and other appropriate upgrades to the HCL facility.

+ HCL Stairway Replacement Project: The project has been successfully completed and are working towards closing out this grant.

+ Wi-Fi Hot Spot/Device Program: It is our intention to lend out Wi-Fi hot spots and devices (Chromebook and/or tablets) to New Rochelle residents as funded by our Foundation annual grant (along with limited WLS support.) We are continuing to pursue grant opportunities with the City of New Rochelle and the federal government E-Rate Funding Program in order to acquire additional units.

+ Rockwell Painting Loan: Per previous Library Board approval, our Norman Rockwell painting “Land of Enchantment” was loaned to the Norman Rockwell Museum for exhibition at its Stockbridge location. The painting will be returned to our library shortly after the conclusion of the October 31st exhibition.

+ Friends of NRPL: The Friends Book Store reopened on May 10th and is now providing the community with open hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Donations are currently accepted with 2 small boxes/bags allowed per individual.

+ NRPL Foundation: At its May 17th meeting, the Foundation Board approved our library’s FY 2021/2022 annual grant request. In addition, the Foundation’s Annual Meeting scheduled for June 21st, will vote on a supplemental grant request as well as the Huguenot Children’s Library’s annual grant request. The City Wide Scavenger Hunt – also known as the “Scavaganza” –is scheduled for October 2nd and is rapidly moving ahead in relation to planning, sponsorship/fund raising and participation commitments. On October 3rd, the Foundation (in cooperation with our library) will sponsor a Family Fair themed “Superpowers/Comic Con” event during our afternoon hours of operation with the goal of showcasing the library and all it has to offer to the community. Additionally, the event will witness an official ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Second Floor area with our state legislation delegation (along with other local dignitaries) who made the funding possible. The planning team is envisioning a packed afternoon full of activities for families, creating a special kind of “festival atmosphere.” Much discussion ensued.

PERSONNEL REPORT:

Dierdra Clark made the motion, upon the recommendation of the Director, the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the appointment of:

Sandra Perez to the position of hourly Library Assistant (Adult Services), effective May 31, 2021 at a salary of \$24.21 per hour.

Sandra Mendoza to the position of hourly Library Assistant (Adult Services), effective June 1, 2021 at a salary of \$24.21 per hour.

Ti-Shawn Wellington to the position of hourly Library Page (Children’s Services - HCL), effective May 31, 2021 at a salary of \$14.00

Seconded by Whitney Barrat and approved.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Whitney Barrat moved to recommend our library’s Huguenot Children’s Library FY 2021-2022 \$29,000 Foundation Grant request and the supplemental \$6,900 Children’s Summer Outdoor Programming Initiative, seconded by Dierdra Clark and approved.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

No report was made.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, FOUNDATION, FRIENDS AND HUGUENOT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Chair Daniel Bonnet reported on a variety of community events, programs and opportunities. He highlighted the upcoming Foundation Scavaganza and Family Fair events. Daniel also indicated that he had contacts in the New Rochelle community interested in the donation of plants, etc. to our Children's Garden area. He detailed the marvelous Juneteenth events scheduled on June 20th throughout New Rochelle.

FINANCE, TREASURY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Corey Galloway reported he is seeking to schedule meetings with other local banks regarding changing our Library's banking affiliation. He is continuing to research potential vendors for a more useful and effective library credit card.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Chair Dierdra Clark reported that the Board is continuing to negotiate with the Union regarding a new Collective Bargaining agreement. She indicated she will continue to serve on the Personnel Committee as a citizen advisor for the indeterminate future. Tom Geoffino highlighted the June 29th retirements of Beth Mills, Librarian 3, and Beth Golomb, Senior Clerk 2, and their long and distinguished careers at New Rochelle Public Library. He indicated their combined service years of service total over 80 work years.

Dierdra Clark made the motion to:

Create a Librarian 2 (Circulation Services) and Librarian 1 (Adult Services) – as a replacement to the vacant Librarian 3 position.

Create a Bi-Lingual Library Assistant (Circulation Services) – as a replacement to Senior Clerk 2

Seconded by Whitney Barrat and approved.

POLICY COMMITTEE:

No report was made.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

Whitney Barrat indicated that the strategic planning process, with the support of Public Works Partners, is moving forward. Focus groups involving library staff and Library Board members are scheduled within the next 10 days.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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Robert Abay Webster Avenue, New Rochelle, NY

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Bonnet
Secretary