

- 1) At 7:34pm the online meeting was called to order by Ms. Saeed. Present were Jaime Saeed, Brian O'Leary, Marietta Zacker, Diego Ribadeneira, Emily Brown, Andrew Ha, Jill Faherty, Village Trustees Karen Hilton and Bill Haskins, Friends representative Kathie Abrams, South Orange resident Marcia Kaiser, and Jenna Leis.
- 2) **Public Comments:** South Orange resident Marcia Kaiser, residing at 609 W. South Orange Ave., presented questions to the board. First she asked the feasibility for the library to join the BCCLS (Bergen County Cooperative Library System) consortium. Ms. Faherty informed her that she has been looking into the library joining a consortium of this type though at the moment it is a little out of budget for this year. Mr. O'Leary expressed later in the meeting the challenges of implementing the BCCLS delivery model and how Ms. Faherty first wanted to take the time to learn more about what the staff does and how it could fit.

Ms. Kaiser also asked about volunteering opportunities at the library for community members like herself. Ms. Faherty stated the library has a large teen volunteer program but does see the chance for expanding this in the future. This can include expanding ESL and literacy programs, art programs, and more. At the moment though the library staff does not have the capability to train and take on volunteers. There are opportunities however with the Friends of the Library and through the Foundation. Friends representative Kathie Abrams shared that they have a focus on fundraising along with the multiple jewelry sales throughout the year and bringing back the book sales. Ms. Abrams will get in touch with Ms. Kaiser and discuss more.

Before signing off Ms. Kaiser expressed her thanks to the library staff in making it a welcoming space for her and her family.

- 3) **Friends of SOPL update:** Friends representative Kathie Abrams updated that the letter writing campaign, with huge thanks to member Pam Bristah, has been a success. So far they have received over \$4,000 in donations and memberships. This brings their budget to approximately \$17,000 and they are looking for an opportunity to align their budget with the libraries.

Ms. Abrams asked the Finance committee to share with her the outlined budget for this year. Mr. O'Leary and Ms. Faherty will work to get that to her.

The Friends are planning their next holiday jewelry sale for December as well as a few smaller pop-up during the fall.

They are in the process of purchasing a museum pass to The Frick Collection in New York that will allow for four people. In addition, they are working to publicize more local museums that have either cheap or free entrance. Finally, the new little free library is up by the community pool and is well stocked.

- 4) **Foundation Update:**

- a. *Capital Campaign:* Ms. Zacker reported the Capital Campaign is continuing well. They are working with consultant Sobel Bixel to complete the interviews for the feasibility

study. A report should be ready soon to present at the Campaign's August meeting and the Boards September meeting.

5) **Minutes of the June 2022 Library Board Meetings:** A motion was made by Ms. Zacker to approve the meeting minutes from the June 21st board meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Ribadeneira and approved by all.

6) **Financial Report:**

a. *Bills payable:* A motion was made by Ms. Zacker to approve the bills payable from Operating account totaling \$ 14,727.90 and the Trustees account totaling \$1,774.90. This was seconded by Ms. Brown and approved by all.

7) **Committee updates**

a. *Personnel:* Mr. O'Leary informed the Board that the committee is still focused on Ms. Faherty's evaluation and he will be assisting Mrs. Tracy Carroll, who was unable to attend this meeting, in completing it.

b. *Building Advisory:* Last week was the deadline for the RFP proposals. A total of 13 were received and the committee is in the process of looking them over. A tentative meeting is set for August 4th, though some scheduling conflicts have arisen. At this meeting the committee will discuss the proposals and narrow it down to the top five or six firms to invite for an interview.

Mr. Ha has joined the committee for this portion of the process and any board member is welcomed and encouraged to take part in the interview process. Village Trustees Ms. Hilton and Mr. Haskins have also been a part of the committee. The interviews will be taking place sometime end of August/early September in the Connett building. Ms. Faherty will let the Board know when more solid dates have been decided on. Ms. Hilton also thanked Ms. Leis for her admin work so far for the committee.

8) **Director's Report:**

a. *Building Projects:* Ms. Faherty has informed the board of some issues going on in the building. Recently the fire and security alarms have been going off. The alarms have been set to test until a new part for the sensory is received. It has been backordered until August now. She has been working with the security company, Hughes Fire & Security, who said one reason for the alarms going off may be the humidity causing the doors to expand which sets off the sensors. They are working to fix the issue. There have been complaints by the neighbors to the police about the alarms going off at night.

DPW has been coming to work on landscaping around the library. Ms. Faherty is also working to get them inside the library to fix some lights and clean off the roof and gutters. There have been a few issues with leaks in the roof which can be resolved by cleaning it.

Last week the local Girl Scouts planted a garden in the front of the library. With the help of Linda Beck from the environmental commission they created a pollinator garden. In back of the building the Children's garden has also been maintained through gardening programs.

There are still a few tasks the contractors have to complete before the Connett exterior can officially be done. That is continued to be worked on.

- b. *Programming and Services Update:* Summer reading is about halfway through, the theme this year is Oceans of Possibilities. There has been a multitude of programs going along with the theme. To celebrate Shark Week, a shark costume will be at a lot of programs going forward including story times at the community pool. Programs so far have included YA author visits, Friday movies, library group discussions, collaborative art Tuesdays, a bird walk through the reserve with Mr. Haskins, and more.

The Community Ice Cream Socials have been a success with over 60 people at each of the first two. The first one was to honor the retirement of Beth Halliday, former Head of the Children's Department and followed by Village President Sheena Collum. Thanks to the Friends for purchasing a freezer for these events.

Michelle Fiederer, the new social services case manager for SOMA, continues to have hours at the library on Monday's and Friday's from 10am to 2pm. Many patrons have been taken advantage of her services and she expects to expand.

The library has been designated as a cooling area during the upcoming heat wave so an increase in patrons is expected.

9) Trustees of the Board:

- a. *BOE Representative:* Donna Grohman has been looking for a replacement as representatives to the school district's Board of Education. Ms. Faherty is waiting to hear back from her about a prospective candidate. If anyone has someone in mind for the positions they are welcome to reach out to Ms. Faherty and Ms. Karp for further details. Ms. Grohman will continue to be on the Foundation and Personnel committees for the time being.

10) Current and Upcoming: Next Board meeting is September 20th at 7:30pm

11) Closed session: The Board went into closed session at 8:25pm. This session was in regards to personnel matters that may be made public at a later date.

12) Closed session concluded at 8:35pm.

13) The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jenna Leis

