

## **Tuxedo Park Library**

**December 8, 2021**

### **Approved minutes**

President Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

Present: Davidson, Fennell, Gates-Bonarius, Heffernan, Howard, and Director Loomis and Assistant Director Sandak.

Absent: Trustees Barnett, Bullard. Minutes:

On a motion by President Davidson and seconded by Trustee Fennell, the Board of Trustees meeting November minutes were approved as submitted unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

President Davidson reported for the treasurer. As in previous months, there were no big surprises or changes this month and we are on track to end the year with a small but not unmanageable deficit. On the positive front our letter to Paychex finally elicited a response, and our bookkeeper is in discussion with them to finally take the necessary steps to at last retrieve our ERC funds from the IRS. Director Loomis later reported that most of the other libraries in the RCLS system who had applied for such funds have in fact received them.

Director's report:

#### **NYS Laws Update**

- **Open Meeting:** In September, Governor Hochul signed the Legislation (S.50001/A.40001) Allowing New Yorkers to Participate in State and Local Government Meetings Virtually to Reduce the Risk of COVID-19 Spread; and Help People with Disabilities Participate in Their Government. This change is in effect until January 15, 2022.
- **Open Meetings:** In October, Governor Hochul signed S1150A/A1228A into law Chapter481. This change requires that open meeting documents be made available upon request or posted to the public website at least 24 hours before the open meeting in which the documents will be discussed.
- **Charge Back of Tax Levy Funds:** S6653/A6489 Provides for a charge-back of refunds of taxes levied by a school district to municipal public libraries, association libraries, and special district public libraries. (Chapter 503). So, for municipal, association and special district libraries, where the school district is the tax collecting agency (259 ballots), there will be a new expense beginning in 2022 – Charge Back of Tax Refunds. This new law will NOT impact TPL because the municipality (not the school district) collects the taxes. But this change will be impacting other libraries in the system.
- **Trustee Training Requirement:** Requires library board of trustee members to complete a minimum of two hours of trustee education annually. Effective January 1, 2023.

#### **Building and Grounds**

- **HVAC Work in the Learning Lab:** The system has been repaired. The invoice received was \$1,400 less than the original estimate.

#### **ARPA Funding Opportunity:**

- The State Library has allocated \$5,514,315 of Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to New York State's nine regional Library Resources Councils for collaborative regional projects that will advance digital inclusion, encourage library/museum partnerships, and expand student access digital resources. Of these funds, the amount allocated for advanced digital inclusion is \$342,487, which will be shared throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley, including RCLS. Through this funding, RCLS will purchase and pay for a SonicWave 4320 external WIFI access point and SonicWall Power Injector for TPL. They will also setup and configure the devices. TPL will be responsible for paying for the electrician setting up the outside mount; it will cost approximately \$1-3k. Once installed, this equipment should significantly improve the library's WIFI signal outside the building.

#### **Libraries as sites for delivery of social services**

- Recently, TPL had two patrons in need coming in and asking for help finding social services in our area. To help provide assistance, the library has been working with local resident Sue Heywood and Helping Hands of Rockland County to provide solutions to patrons who are homeless. In both instances, patrons were given food, shelter and help applying for assistance services. These instances are reflective of nationwide library trends.

#### **Author's Circle**

Trustee Howard reported that on February 6<sup>th</sup> an in-person event with Debby Applegate, author of *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler* will take place. On April 3d the Library will host Janice Nimura in a discussion of her book *The Sisters Blackwell* about the first two women physicians in the country.

#### **Friends**

Director Loomis reported that Amra Sabic-El-Rayess was in the process of finishing the annual fundraising appeal letter

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Davidson offered the following slate of officers for 2022: President: Anthony Davidson; Vice-President: Gerald Howard; Secretary: Heather Bullard; Treasurer: To be determined. The new slate was unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the Tuxedo Park Library Strategic Plan was put before the board. During the discussion Trustees Heffernan, Gates-Bonarius and Howard each observed in their own way that the plan was well conceived in terms of overall aims and intentions, but was somewhat lacking in concrete actions to implement those aims and intentions. Director Loomis then said that she had already prepared an Implementation Plan outlining the concrete steps to be taken in respect to such implementation. The board then unanimously approved the Strategic Plan as presented with Director Loomis's Implementation Plan as a rider or appendix.

There was some further discussion of the ongoing chargeback issue with the Town of Tuxedo, with the board in firm agreement that our statutory standing in respect to the town should exempt us from the

town's efforts to reclaim any real estate tax undercharges as a result of unforeseen deficits; the Library's funding is voted upon by the town's residents and takes place entirely outside the realm of tax collection.

President Davidson adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry Howard