

Putnam Valley Library Board of Trustees
Minutes from Jan. 22, 2024

Trustees present: Gabrielle Del Pozzo Finkel, Jodi Carlson, Ginger Lefurgy, Tom Pendleton, Joe Ferraro, Leslie Martin, Terry Raskin, Marilyn Power
Staff present: Amina Chaudhri

1. The minutes from the December meeting were approved unanimously, with Ginger moving and Tom seconding the motion.
2. Treasurer's report: the library's expenditures are within the normal range; one account at Tompkins is earmarked for the HVAC replacements. The Ameriprise funds are being rebalanced to lower costs. The library has earned \$175 so far from selling Easy Pass devices.
3. Director's report: The report compared 2023 with 2022 in terms of usage of the library's resources. Both e-book and physical book usage increased, as did attendance at library programs. In February the library will offer two author talks on Zoom, one on Sacred Art of the Met and one on Before Brooklyn: the Unsung Heroes who Helped Break Baseball's Color Barrier.

The new kids' cooking class offering was so successful that a second class was added. This will be a monthly event. Two new story times for preschoolers will be added, on Monday and Friday afternoons. High school volunteers offered a Reading Buddies story time in January, and plan a bilingual English/Spanish story time in February.

The library has purchased five more Dell desktop computers, two of which have already arrived.

Cornell Cooperative Extension will install a freezer in the community room this winter with free locally prepared meals to be taken by anyone who needs them.

Library Advocacy Day in Albany is February 7.

We have transitioned successfully to ADP as our payroll provider, and Ethan Allen is refunding the \$7,007 they were holding in escrow.

Amina is awaiting decisions on decarbonization, building, and community grants. Her proposal for a Youth Service Solar Eclipse Grant for \$1,000 for programming about the April 2024 eclipse was successful, making Putnam Valley Library one of only 35 out of 152 proposals that was accepted.

Cole completed the Digital Navigator's Program in January, and is prepared to serve clients.

We are collecting soft, stretchy plastic to qualify for a Trex bench, and so far have over 200 pounds collected.

4. Old business:

Leslie presented another set of policies for approval. Ginger moved and Jodi seconded approval; the motion was accepted unanimously.

Leslie, Tom, and Marilyn met to discuss the facilities plan. Leslie is writing up the proposed plan, and adding in the technology component.

The library is due to draft a new long-term plan, which will require community input. This is a discussion to begin at the next meeting.

The Board agreed that it is time to move forward with Robin Aires' proposal for heat pumps to replace our aging HVAC system.

We also agreed that the library should apply for a state construction grant in 2024 for renovation of the Community Room. Amina will attend a construction grant workshop.

5. New Business

The Friends of the Library have renewed all museum passes for 2024.

The Board agreed unanimously to reappoint Tom Pendleton to be an interim Board member for another year. Ginger moved and Joe seconded the motion.

Our new Board president will be Joe Ferraro. Ginger will continue as Vice President and Leslie as Treasurer of the Board. Terry will serve as Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned, with Marilyn moving and Tom seconding the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Power