

PUTNAM VALLEY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes, April 15, 2024 Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Board President Joseph Ferraro. In attendance were trustees Ginger Lefurgy, Joseph Ferraro, Tom Pendleton, Gabrielle DelPozzo Finkel, Marilyn Power, Terry Raskyn and Leslie Martin. Absent: Jodi Carlson. Also in attendance: Library Director Amina Chaudhri, Friends of the Library President Michael Bennett, and guest, Putnam Valley resident Leo Alves.
2. A motion to approve the March 2024 meeting minutes was made by Ginger Lefurgy, seconded by Tom Pendleton, and passed unanimously.
3. Director Amina Chaudhri reported:
  - a. Adult programming so far in April has been wildly popular, led off by a screening of the first episode of Jon Bennett's documentary on Paul Robeson and the Peekskill Riots. At least 65 people were in attendance. Not date is yet set, but Part II will also run at the Library (there are five episodes all told).
  - b. Kirtan with Jane is coming up.
  - c. Cornell Cooperative Extension begins a Seed to Supper program next week. Two deliveries of seeds have been made to the Library.
  - d. The outdoor food pantry has returned and has canned and jarred goods. The CCE meals/Second Chance foods have engendered a positive response.
  - e. The Library has established a receptacle for unwanted medicines. Fentanyl test strips are also being made available.
  - f. Astronomy Week was well attended and appreciated, featuring portable planetarium shows and meteorologist Joe Rao.
  - g. The Library gave out 600 eclipse glasses; patrons may bring them back and they will be sent on to South America for the next total eclipse.
  - h. The PV Schools' kindergarten classes have been touring the Library, during which they get their first library cards.

- i. \$259 funding – the balance of the funds should arrive in the next couple of weeks.
  - j. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, there are nine new tables.
  - k. Ethan Allen reports no update on the ERC Credit.
  - l. The New World Foundation gave the Library a cash grant of approximately \$21,000 to purchase one of the six heat pumps and provide for new ceiling insulation. The cost of that will be a bit more, so the Board approved a resolution to allow an additional \$3,000 for this particular project. Motion was made by Terry Raskyn, seconded by Leslie Martin, and it was approved unanimously.
  - m. The new heat pumps are in, and Amina had praise for Robin Aire and their on time, clean, efficient and quiet work.
  - n. Cole Caulfield has completed the Digital Navigator program.
  - o. The Library has collected 580 pounds, to date, of the 600 needed to get our Trex bench.
4. Michael Bennett of the Friends of the Library was thanked for contributing toward the acquisition of the new tables.
5. Treasurer Leslie Martin reported that:
- a. We have \$216K in the bank and will soon be getting the balance of our \$259 funding;
  - b. IRS 990 forms for this year have been filed;
  - c. A number of budget lines are over – including grants, donations, income, materials, operations.
  - d. Budget lines that are under include building usage, salaries, programs, equipment and tech, building and grounds.
  - e. In all, we are in good shape, including with our Ameriprise investments, which are earning an approximate 7% total return.
6. Committee Reports:
- a. Executive Committee – none
  - b. Facilities: Leslie Martin reports that she and Marilyn Power cleaned out the cabinet in Françoise’s office and found many

documents, including one that showed plans the Library had for adding a building to the grounds.

- c. Long Range – none
  - d. Fundraising/Grants: Leslie reported we are close to being able to use the NYS Grants Portal to apply for anything appropriate that is listed on their website. She is also working with Cole Caulfield is close to closing out the construction grant.
  - e. Landscaping: Zaldivar will be taking the place of DJ Tavares. Ginger is talking with Françoise re planting our beds with pollinators. She reports that Cornell Cooperative will plant things in the back for Seed to Supper, and that she will do the flower boxes.
7. Old Business: Terry Raskyn requested that she no longer be texted when the Library alarm goes off.
8. New business:
- a. The Board unanimously thanked guest Leo Alves (present at the meeting) for his and his wife Patricia Grove's \$100 contribution to the Library following a motion by Marilyn Power seconded by Ginger Lefurgy;
  - b. The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report following a motion by Ginger Lefurgy, seconded by Tom Pendleton;
  - c. A discussion was held about the 2024-25 budget and how to define the fiscal year; we will consult with other \$259 libraries, our accountant and our eventual auditor re best practices;
  - d. Following patron Leo Alves' suggestions, there was a discussion of changing our website to make it more attractive and to return the "Donate" button;
  - e. Amina was asked to query ADP to see if they can provide to the Trustees the sexual harassment training required yearly and provided to employees
9. Following a motion to adjourn by Ginger Lefurgy, seconded by Gabrielle DelPozzo Finkel, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Raskyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Terry Raskyn  
Secretary, Putnam Valley Library Board of Trustees