



Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

Date: 11/20/2025

Location: Library Community Room

Trustees Attending in person:

Gary Sheffer (President), Dani French (Vice President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Patty Brennan (Treasurer), Aaron Able, Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Miranda Barry, Wesley Brown, Joseph Ferris, Kellen Henry, Sharon Javna, Ryan Kelly, Jared Muehlbauer, Kelley Robinson, Heather Thiry, and Sherry Jo Williams.

Excused: Carol Pledger

Absent: Sean Gilleran

Staff Attending: Emily Chameides (Director)

Others Attending: Diana Gavales, Lloyd Koedding

The meeting was called to order by Gary Sheffer at 06:01 pm. He welcomed trustees and guests.

A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Miranda Barry and seconded by Joseph Ferris. The vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

Reports

President's Report: Gary Sheffer

Joseph Ferris recused himself from the meeting for the portion of the President's Report focused on Bard College.

For holiday gifts, please consider the Whaling Exhibit related Bonfire merchandise.

Friends of the Library report: next meeting on December 17 at 6pm in the History Room, there are new potential interested members planning to join the meeting.

Dani, Emily, and Gary met with Bard on November 7 to discuss potential lease extensions and modifications. Bard College representatives noted the expectation that they would accept ownership of the building by January 1 and they are working on final paperwork. They noted they would like to speak with us about lease extension after papers are final. Bard representatives noted being open to potentially selling the armory building. Discussions about the appraised value of this building are still ongoing with Galvan. Two pro bono real estate attorneys are helping the library think about what we would need to consider if we were to go down the path of seeking to purchase the building. Bard will agree on an appraised value with Galvan as part of the building transaction. There will be a December 9 public forum at Park Theater with Bard leadership. The Board noted that with the terms of our current lease being honored, the library has at least 20 more years in the building.

Treasurer’s Report: Patty Brennan

Through October, we collected 110% of our annual budgeted operating income and spent 70% of our budgeted operating expenses. In income, total receipts were \$33,000.30 for the month. Notable income for the month includes Literacy Connections space use fee of \$7,000. Total Expenses were \$74,181.49 for the month. Notable expenses for the month include: Public Programs - Professional Fees: Malang Jobarteh \$1,000 for a Kora Concert.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report by Wesley Brown and seconded by Joseph Ferris. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.

A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Statement by Jim Kelly and seconded by Sherry Jo Williams. Vote to approve the report was unanimous.

Director’s Report: Emily Chameides

The assistant director position job description was finalized and outreach will begin this week.

In grants and fundraising, we received \$60,000 from the Donald J. Marshall Living Trust - the 2nd partial distribution. We received award notification from NYSCA that we are receiving a two-year operating grant in the amount of \$49,500/year, which will support our folk arts related programming and associated costs. Funds are anticipated to arrive in 2026. We received grants from the Alexander and Marjorie Hover Foundation (\$5,900 for Tween and Teen programs) and the Evelyn Bordewick Charitable Foundation (\$3,500 for general operating - reissue of 2024 contribution that was lost in the mail). The annual appeal design will be finalized and sent to the printer by next week.

MHLS Advocacy Ambassadors Program Kicks off December 11. This requires representation from our board and Jared Muehlbauer agreed to take on this role.

Trustee Education (two hours required annually - annual deadline 12/31): Please enter your 2025 activities in the Trustee Education Activities Records spreadsheet as you complete your hours this year or email Emily.

Fundraising Committee

The Board discussed past and potential strategies for fundraising, our fundraising priorities, and our responsibilities to the library and its patrons.

New Business/Public Comments

Lloyd Koedding recommended the library consider the Pocketbook Factory for our annual gala and to consider opening at 9am.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dani at 7:06 pm by and seconded by Wesley Brown . Vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.

Jim Kelly, 11/20/25
Recording Secretary

12/18/25
Date of approval