

Saugerties Public Library  
Regular Board Meeting  
Date: Thursday September 12, 2024

**Present:** Trustees, Jouette Bassler, Charlotte Herscher, Paul Vanbenschoten, Brian Collins, Nina Schmidbaur, Timothy Scott, Julie Misiano, Robert Irizarry

**Excused:** Katie Cokinos, Yosefa Karchmar

**Staff:** Director Jennifer Russell

**Public Attendees:** Ray Rebholz, Friends of the Library Co-President;  
Recently elected future Trustees: Rebecca Lang, Erin Poll, Ken Goldberg

*Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by Tim Scott*

**Public Comment:**

Ken Goldberg had some kind words of praise for the honored former Trustee Irene Rivera Hurst.

**Friends of Library:** Co-President Ray Rebholz wanted to congratulate the newly elected board members. September 16th at 6pm will be the first meeting of the year.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Library Vote:
  - Budget- the budget passed by a wide margin.
  - New Trustees: Ern Poll and Kenneth Goldberg were elected to 5 year terms. With the resignation of Trustee Cokinos, Rebbeca Lang will complete Ms. Cokinos' term. Teresa Giordano will join the board to complete the remainder of Irene Hurst, who retired earlier this year.
- Honoring Former Trustee Irene Rivera Hurst: prior to the meeting, several Trustees, former Trustees, book club and Monday club members joined together in the back garden to dedicate the tree that was planted and installed with a plaque in Irene's honor.
- Trustee Training requirements for current Trustees must be completed by October 9, 2024. Not completing them could result in a trustee being removed from the board.

**New Business:**

1. With the resignation of Trustee Cokinos, the Director reached out to those who had been on the ballot, by order of votes received, to inquire if they

would join the board. See unfinished business regarding the New Trustees for details.

2. Annual Organizational Meeting in October: This is the time to say goodbye to departing Trustees, welcome the new trustees and have everyone sign the oath of office, the ethics agreement and whistleblower statement.

### Secretary's Report:

*Motion* by Tim Scott and *Second* by Nina Schmidbaur to approve the minutes as written.

Motion passes unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report:

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 24,299.03 made by Charlotte Herscher seconded by Brian Collins Passes unanimously

**Director's Report:** Please see the report included in the Meeting Packet.

- In discussion with the Ulster Library Association to possibly use ProQuest for shared online newspaper subscriptions. If this does not come to fruition, the director plans to have the library subscribe to the Wall Street Journal.
- Callie Houghtaling has joined the staff as a Clerk. We have posted to hire a Children's Librarian due to the resignation of Charlotte Svetkey, who will leave at the end of September.
- 5-Year Plan: We have ended the survey submission phase.
- The director is working with Myrna Sameth and other community members to explore how the library might be able to support the community in an emergency. One of the items suggested is for the library to have a generator in the event of long-term power outages. Another idea would be to have people sheltering elsewhere temporarily, to be able to come here for dinner and a movie.
- Received a grant from MHLS to have a program about supporting civil discourse.
- Ulster County Arts and Culture planning: they visited the library to see how the library supports and may support local artists.
- The server room has had the wiring organized and the router upgraded.
- A Dungeons and Dragons starter pack has been added to the "Library of Things".

### Committee Reports:

*Finance:* met on 8/28/24

Retirement estimates have gone up a little bit since the proposed budget was finalized and approved by the voters.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: 9/24/24 at 6PM

*Personnel/Policy:* Did not meet

Next meeting: 9/18/24 at 6PM

*Facilities:* met on 8/13/24

The front entranceway has been painted. Waiting for information about the sidewalk changes, and have not yet heard back from Five Star Roofing who has contracted to repair the roof.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: 9/12/24 at 6 PM, followed by October 1st at 6PM.

*Outreach:* Did not meet

Next meeting: 9/23/24 at 5:30 PM

The Nominating Committee will meet on September 20 at 4:15. Trustees and new trustees will receive an email asking them to complete a survey regarding which committees they would like to join for the coming year. Please rank them. Trustees are expected to join at least one, but may opt to join more. New trustees may not be chairs of the committees. Continuing Trustees will be asked if they are interested in being a chairperson. Please return them promptly.

*Friends Liaison:*

N/A

*Motion* to adjourn at 6:32 PM by Tim Scott ; *Seconded* by Brian Collins.

Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Julie Misiano

Next meeting: Thursday October 10, 2024 at 6PM