

Mount Pleasant Public Library: Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting of February 17, 2022
Via Zoom

Trustees & Liaisons present: Dick Malina, Mary Ann Quinn, Julie Edwards, Marcie Krauss, James Riina, Rebecca Myers, Eric Neuman, Thomas Sialiano (Town Liaison),

Also present:

John Fearon, Library Director; Martha Mesiti, Assistant Library Director; Bill Link, facilities consultant

Trustees & Liaisons absent: David Vinjamuri (Village Liaison)

Call to order

Administrative: Trustee Krauss called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 20, 2022, Board meeting were approved. Moved by Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Neuman, and passed.

Opportunity to Hear from the Public: Two members of the Library staff attended the meeting. Library patron Helaina Winnicki attended to express her concern about continued masking requirements at the Library and their effects on children, in particular.

Claims of Payment

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Edwards, and seconded by Trustee Quinn, that:
It is hereby resolved that the Town Comptroller be authorized to:

- Pay all vouchers reviewed and approved by the Director and the Comptroller, for the month of February 2022, for a total of \$57,016.87

202202-01 The motion passed.

Directors Report

The Library's finances are healthy. Assembly member Tom Abinanti has submitted a bill that would extend the deadline for state construction grants until June 2024, as there are several libraries facing the same time bind as we are. Town engineer David Smyth is working on a proposal to address drainage issues at the Library, with the hope that the project might qualify under the grant.

Masking policy is the main pandemic issue at this point. The state eliminated its mask mandate earlier in the week and with it any guidelines for practice. The Library's best recourse is to follow the policies of our municipalities and school districts. As practice varies between Town and Village, masks would be optional in the Branch library, but they would still be required in the Main Library (as the Village Hall still requires masking). Decisions concerning masking for children will follow school district guidelines, but these guidelines are expected to evolve once schools reopen after this winter break. The Library will continue to require masking and social distancing for children's programs, for as long as the schools require it.

Ms. Winnicki presented her views in the context of this discussion, and the Board discussed with her some of the issues the Library faces in trying to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Of the four firms presenting Master Plan proposals, the choice came down to two firms. After a follow-up meeting to address concerns, the planning committee recommended that the Library contract with Henry Myerberg and HMA2 architects. At this early stage there are several issues that will affect the scope and execution of the project. Asbestos abatement will be a primary component of any renovation project, with the emphasis on full removal, rather than encapsulation. Any project will require a balancing of scope, timeline, and cost, to find the best fit for the community and our resources. Beyond renovations and the possibility of an expanded children's area in the Main Library, the process may also allow us to create a whole new vision and philosophy for the Branch Library, as we consider the two facilities in relation to each other.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Malina, and seconded by Trustee Myers, that:

It is hereby resolved that the following personnel items be approved:

- The Authorized Personnel Salary Schedule for 2022 be amended to include an additional line: Substitute Custodian at \$25.00 per hour
- Janet Green be appointed to the position of Head of Children's Services (Librarian II), effective February 15, 2022, at Grade 5, Step 7 of the 2022 Authorized Personnel Salary Schedule
- Alex Kiffer be appointed to the position of Reference/IT Librarian (Librarian I), effective February 28, 2022, at Grade 4, Step 7 of the 2022 Authorized Personnel Salary Schedule
- Amy Mackin be appointed to the position of Librarian Trainee, effective March 6, 2022, or later (pending approval of Westchester Civil Service Personnel), at Grade 3, Step 6 of the 2022 Authorized Personnel Salary Schedule

- Ruth Matute be appointed to the position of Sunday and Substitute Custodian, effective February 18, 2022, at the rates of pay for each position detailed in the 2022 Authorized Personnel Salary Schedule
- Vivian Gufarotti's final payment, detailed in the attached memorandum signed by the Town Comptroller and Library Director, be approved

202202-02 The motion passed.

Master Plan

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Riina, and seconded by Trustee Edwards, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Board recommend to the Town and Village that the Library contract for design services with Henry Myerberg of HMA2 architects.

202202-03 The motion passed.

Insurance

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Neuman, and seconded by Trustee Quinn, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Library's insurance policies be renewed.

202202-04 The motion passed.

Coordination with Village and Town Covid-19 Policies

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Myers, and seconded by Trustee Malina, that:

It is hereby resolved that the Library align its Covid-19 Pandemic Policies with the respective municipality for each of its locations for general library services, and with the respective school district for children's programs.

202202-05 The motion passed.

Trustee Quinn moved for adjournment at 8:18 pm, seconded by Trustee Edwards.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Quinn
Secretary