

VALLEY COTTAGE LIBRARY

110 Route 303, Valley Cottage, New York 10989 • 845.268.7700 • www.valleycottagelibrary.org



Board of Trustees Meeting of the
Valley Cottage Library
Wednesday, January 17, 2024

MINUTES

Present: Arlette Mooney, President
Frank Dwyer, Vice President
Michael Mark, Treasurer
Melissa L. Roy, Secretary
Marge McLoughlin, Trustee

Absent: Mary Fiore, Trustee – excused
Herb Lerner, Trustee – excused

Also attending: Christy Blanchette, Director
Ashley Maraffino, Assistant Director

Public attending: Caroline Meyers
Carida Ridoré

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 8:12pm by Arlette.

2. Public Comments – Caroline Meyers expressed appreciation for Arlette’s leadership as Board President for the past three years.

3. Approval of December 20, 2023 Minutes

Moved by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Michael Mark the following resolution:

RESOLVED, to accept the Minutes of the December 20, 2023 library Board Meeting.

Motion passes 5-0.

4. President’s Report –

Arlette said that it has been a distinct honor to serve as the Board President for the past three years. She also shared that she has appreciated receiving the support of the trustees and the community.

She reported that Herb Lerner intends to resign from the Board with regret. Upon the receipt of his resignation, the Library will post a notice to fill the vacancy caused by his resignation.

Approved 2/21/2024

5. Director's Report – On file for review.

Christy reported as follows:

- RCLS is sponsoring buses to Albany for Advocacy Day on February 7, 2024.
- Tom Nash from Webster Bank will attend the Library Board meeting in February.
- The June Board meeting was scheduled to take place on Juneteenth (June 19). It will be rescheduled later in the year.
- Ashley is conducting sexual harassment prevention training for Library staff and trustees.

6. Treasurer's Report

Moved by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Melissa Roy the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library accepts the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2023, and approves the attached vouchers.

Motion passes 5-0.

7. Board Reports and New Business

Election of Board Officers –

Arlette Mooney and Michael Mark nominated Frank Dwyer to serve as Board President. Frank Dwyer is elected Board President unanimously.

Michael Mark and Arlette Mooney nominated Marge McLoughlin to serve as Board Vice President. Marge McLoughlin is elected Board President unanimously.

Arlette Mooney and Marge McLoughlin nominated Michael Mark to serve as Board Treasurer. Michael Mark is elected Board Treasurer unanimously.

Arlette Mooney and Michael Mark nominated Melissa Roy to serve as Board Secretary. Melissa Roy is elected Board Secretary unanimously.

Designation of official newspaper –

Moved by Michael Mark and seconded by Arlette Mooney the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library designates The Rockland Journal News to be the Official Library Newspaper.

Motion passes 5-0.

Personnel Report –

Moved by Melissa Roy and seconded by Michael Mark the following resolutions as a group:

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library accepts the resignation of Riya Abraham, whose last day of work was January 11, 2024.

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the appointment of Jade Bullard, PT<18 hours, effective January 8, 2024.

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library accepts the resignation of Carly Campos, whose last day of work was January 5, 2024.

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the appointment of Veronica Francois, PT<18 hours, effective January 3, 2024.

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library accepts the resignation of Alexandra Carioscia, whose last day of work was August 15, 2023.

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library accepts the resignation of Helena Sopin, whose last day of work was June 21, 2023.

Motion passes 5-0.

Strategic Plan Revision and Approval –

Moved by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Arlette Mooney the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approves the revised Valley Cottage Library Mission and Vision statements and the new Valley Cottage Library Strategic Plan for 2024-2027.

Motion passes 5-0.

Building Committee –

Christy reported that the committee will meet with Michael Esmay, the library's architect, to review the revised plans.

Clerestory window seal proposal approval –

RESOLVED, that on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library authorizes the Library Director to contract with Tri-State Commercial Roofing Corp. to seal 37 clerestory windows.

Motion passes 5-0.

Whistleblower Revision –

Moved by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Michael Mark the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that, on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library approved the Whistleblower Policy, as amended.

Motion passes 5-0.

Defense and Indemnification Policy revocation –

Moved by Michael Mark and seconded by Marge McLoughlin the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that, on recommendation of the Library Director, the Board of Trustees of the Valley Cottage Library revoked the Defense and Indemnification Policy.
Motion passes 5-0.

Nyack School District vote request – tabled

The Superintendent of the Nyack School District has requested that the school budget and school board trustee elections be moved to the Valley Cottage Library. Christy will follow up with the Superintendent to get answers to questions from the Board.

8. Old Business – None

9. Workshop Items –

Statistics – reviewed

10. Adjournment

Moved by Marge McLoughlin and seconded by Arlette Mooney

To adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes: 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa L. Roy, Secretary