CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Moina Noor, Chair; Ralph Bloom, Patsy Brescia, Alex Knopp, Laurel Peterson, Jannie Williams, Mary Mann (7:10 p.m.)

STAFF: Sherelle Harris, Norwalk Public Library Executive Director

This meeting was held via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Noor called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **January 12, 2023**

**** MS. BRESCIA MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2023 MEETING.**
**** MR. BLOOM SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 12, 2023 MINUTES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present from the public who wished to address the Board at this time.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **Board Member Update**

Ms. Noor said that Ms. Baanante has resigned from the Board due to work obligations. Ms. Noor thanked Ms. Baanante for all her contributions to the Board.

- **Blue Teapot**

Ms. Noor said that the Blue Teapot will be closing on March 31st. The operator has also informed the City about this. Ms. Noor thanked the owner for all her efforts and care for the café.

Ms. Mann joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONT'D

Ms. Diane Lauricella said that there had been some technical issues with signing on. She said that she would love to meet with Ms. Harris and Ms. Noor to discuss the Capital and Operating Budgets. She noted that there were no entries on the Capital Budget for building renovations. She asked for a status update.

She added that she would love to write letters to Mr. Dachowitz and others about having the copiers updated to improve the payment process.

Regarding the Operating Budget, she said that both South Norwalk and the Main Library use electricity and she said that the buildings both sit in the sun all day. Ms. Lauricella said that they are not optimizing other alternative and mentioned how Darien Library was using a geothermal system. She said that not the City's decision to not have solar panels on the roof was wrong headed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT'D

- **Governance**

Ms. Noor said that the work was underway.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Capital Budget**

Ms. Harris displayed a document listing the Capital Budget requests. She updated the Board Members on the Planning and Zoning review and displayed a list of projects that have been recommended for approval for the coming year and those that were shifted to outlying years. Discussion followed regarding items that were deferred and also writing letters to the administration outlining the Board's concerns.

**** MS. BRESCIA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MS. NOOR TO SEND A LETTER TO THE ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE BUDGET.**
**** MS. PETERSON SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

- **Operating Budget**

Ms. Harris reviewed the details of the Operating Budget with the Board Members.

- **Aquarium Update**

Ms. Harris said that the plaque has been installed and the fish are being added gradually. The children are excited about the aquarium. Ms. Noor said that it would be important to confirm the maintenance agreement with Randy.

- **SoNo Library repurposing project update**

Ms. Harris said that they have released a bid and the bids will be reviewed on the 14th. Ms. Harris said that the Access Services manager position had been posted internally.

• **Land Trust Committee Meeting**

Ms. Harris reviewed the Land Trust Committee meeting will be on March 1st and the Library will present their choice of vendor for approval during that meeting.

• **Preliminary Goals**

Ms. Harris displayed a page from the CT Library Association Region 4 information and gave an overview of the details for the Board Members. She stated that it was an outline that had not yet been discussed with supervisors and would like to discuss with them to get their input before any final document is issued. She described the process she presented as a crosswalk to align the library's goals with the Mayor's goals, Norwalk education goals and the different library associations' goals. Ms. Brescia stated that this looks like good work and requested a hard copy of the information be mailed to her.

Ms. Noor said that she felt that the Library's goals should align with the City's goals. Ms. Harris said that the City was also moving towards Diversity, Inclusion and Equity. Mr. Knopp requested the document be sent to him via email.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to consider at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Brescia said that there was an amazing article on the New Canaan Library in the newspaper today. She said that it would be good to schedule a tour of their library soon. Ms. Noor said that she would work on arranging a tour.

Mr. Bloom made a suggestion regarding his previous donation of CD cabinets in the lower level of the Library. Ms. Harris requested that he communicate with her first, rather than staff and board. Ms. Brescia said this is not a board issue and that Mr. Bloom should communicate these things to Ms. Harris and that she felt offended having her time wasted like this at a Board meeting. Discussion followed regarding whether this was an appropriate venue for the discussion of removing old library furniture. Ms. Noor said that there had been many changes at the library.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. NOOR MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. KNOPP SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services