

Minutes of the Lodi Whittier Library Board of Trustees Annual Meeting January 10, 2023

The Lodi Library Board of Trustees 2023 annual meeting was held on January 10, 2023 in the Karel Titus Conference Room at the Lodi Whittier Library.

Members in attendance: Beth Bevars, Library Director; John Henderson, Karel Titus, Lorraine McCue, Nora Snyder, Children and Youth Services, Susie Van Riper, Jack Burrows, Diana Lyttle, Paula Valencia, Anna Holmberg, Micci Bogard and Karen Shepherd.

Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 7:04pm.

Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Lorraine

Second: Jack

The motion passed unanimously

Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes as amended: Karel

Seconded: Susie

The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Micci presented the Treasurer's report. She went over details of income from the several municipalities who fund the library as well as other funders.

She went over the expense items line by line in detail.

The board suggested that the proposed 2023 budget should be amended as follows:

Collection development: \$10,000

Motion to approve 2023 proposed budget as amended: Karel

Seconded: Jack

The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

John gave his President's report. He noted that 2022 was the first fully operational year since the start of the Covid pandemic. He noted his thanks for the support of the county, town, village and the voters of the South Seneca School District and for the hard work of Beth and Nora to expand programming.

Director's Report

Beth noted that 2022 was a year for connecting. The Lodi Literacy Hub has given Lodi a seat at the national table as a model of equitable access to resources that work for all

readers. Thanks to support from Assemblymember Philip Palmesano, the Literacy Hub has grown exponentially this year. Beth expects that growth to continue through 2023.

Youth and Program Coordinator's Report

Nora Snyder presented the Youth and Program Coordinator's Report. The library presented **121 programs** in 2022, serving **1758 people!**

Election of Trustees and Officers

Susie represented the Nominating Committee. She presented the slate of candidates for three-year Trustee terms:

John Henderson

Micci Bogard

Diana Lyttle

Lorraine McCue

The board elected the slate of candidates.

The committee then presented the slate of Library Board Officers for 2023:

John Henderson President

Diana Lyttle, Vice President

Karen Shepherd, Secretary

Micci Bogard, Treasurer

The board elected the slate of officers.

Public Discussion

No members of the public were present.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Karel

Second: Susie

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:08

The annual board meeting for 2024 was set for January 9th at 7pm.

President's Annual Report 2022

John Henderson

The past year in many ways has been a time of new beginnings for the Lodi Library. 2022 was the first fully operational year since the start of the Covid pandemic. We haven't just kept our doors open; we have worked to reengage with Lodi residents and residents of surrounding communities. Our library has increased the number of programs we can provide for free. They include a wide selection of programs for all ages offered at different times and on different days. I am thankful for the support of the county, town, village, and the voters of the South Seneca School District, and I am also grateful to Beth and Nora for being so welcoming and working so hard in obtaining so many grants and being so successful.

One thing that made the year different was the state and national attention the library received through Lodi Literacy Hub. With funding from the Finger Lakes Library System, the Rosen Fund of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County, the Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library, the not-for-profit Teach My Kid to Read, and a bullet aid award from Assemblymember Philip A. Palmesano, the library has been able to build a collection from scratch and reach out the families with members who are reading challenged. Beth has made public addresses locally and at the state capitol, led and participated in webinars, worked with librarians across the country and formed partnerships with national organizations. No small feat.

As President of the Board of Trustees, I can report that we enter the new year in a strong position. I hope and expect our numbers will grow in circulation, visits to the library, and attendance at our programs. We have a great board, a very committed group of volunteers, solid financial standing, and two engaged and exuberant employees. We can be very proud.

January 6, 2023

2022 in Review

Library Director's Report

Beth Bevars

2022 was a year for connecting. I was going to write “connections” but that’s too passive. The Lodi Whittier Library was anything but passive this year. I suppose, given our Vision, that comes as no surprise.

The Lodi Whittier Library will provide an essential community service to foster literacy, curiosity, personal growth, and enrichment of community connections.

Of course, my personal emphasis – some would say all-consuming passion- is on “to foster literacy”. The Lodi Literacy Hub has grown enormously this year. We’ve gone from housing a limited collection of decodables funded with small amounts of grant money to building a burgeoning collection of not only decodables but of resources and even programming for parents and teachers with the \$12,000 bullet aid secured by Assemblymember Phil Palmesano. Along the way I’ve presented on behalf of our Library to three groups of teachers at South Seneca, our Lodi Town Board, libraries from the Finger Lakes Library System and 3 adjacent systems, at the Western NY Science of Reading conference, on a panel for the Ontario Library Association and to the NYS Assembly Committee on Libraries and Educational Technology. I’ve also accepted a consultant position with the organization Teach My Kid to Read, to act as a coach for other librarians on how to curate similar collections. Along the way I have met many wonderful people diligently working to foster equitable access to literacy resources in their communities. Librarians are natural literacy allies. We are building a network to address what Dr. Tracy White Weeden has called “the human right of the 21st century” – and Lodi has a seat at the table. It is exciting, terrifying, and humbling to be part of this movement. But all connections and resources are brought right back home to our children, families, and educators. I am excited to see what new directions will be revealed in 2023!

Making the connections that foster curiosity and personal growth are Nora's bailiwick. Whether she is running wildflower bingo, arranging for the Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics to create a presentation on "Spooky Sounds" or calmly telling me that I am indeed going to be playing fiddle for the next contra dance, she is Lodi's secret weapon. People often say to me, "Lodi does such great programs!" I just smile and nod my head. The creativity that Nora brings to our programming continues to amaze me. I know not every program is met with the response that we'd like to see but I strongly value the sense of exploration and risk-taking that we exemplify. Exciting, relevant organizational and personal growth happens in the gaps.

Minding the gaps is what this Board does so well. You provide us with both structure and freedom. Nora and I are able to make the connections we make, and bring them to Lodi to share, because of the physical library you created and the library culture that you build with every email, visit, volunteer shift and meeting.

I am proud to be the Lodi Whittier Library Director. I am excited about what we have accomplished so far, and I look forward to another year full of connecting!

January 2, 2023