



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Approved Minutes

February 11, 2025

Present

Tim Donahue (President), Jacqueline Weitzman (Secretary), Lauren Links, Lauren Casper, Debbie Quinn (Director), Joanna Riesman (Friends)

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 7th meeting were approved.

Day-to-Day Operations

We were horrified by the car fire and death of someone who was a regular for years at the Library. We extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones.

Early voting is over, and everything went off with barely a hiccup. There was a bigger turnout than expected.

Budget

The Library's presentation of the budget for FY 2025-2026 is scheduled for Thursday, March 6th at 6:30 pm and Peter has agreed to join Debbie to present. Debbie is finalizing line items and will share with the board when it is ready.

Treasurer Peter Swiderski sent the yearly and quarterly update of the Memorial and Andersen Funds to the board via email, which is included here:

Yearly Update

We began 2024 with almost exactly \$120,000 in both the Memorial and Anderson funds combined. We end it with \$134,144 (\$79,443 in the Memorial Fund and \$54,700 in the Anderson Fund.) During this period, we disbursed a total of \$8,513 for three items (Judy Kaiser's bookkeeping payments, a new bookcase and chair re-upholstery.) We took in \$445 into the Memorial Fund in donations, and we enjoyed an investment return of \$22,212 (almost 19%) from interest payments and increases in the value of the Admiral Fund due to favorable market conditions.

Using the same model we used last year of setting aside roughly 3% as a permanent increase in our fund base so these monies grow and keep up with inflation, this year we are setting aside \$4,000 so our new base is now \$127,600 compared to last year's base of \$123,600 (which is composed of the original \$120,000 we began 2024 with, plus \$3,600 we set aside at the start of last year as a permanent addition to the capital base).

The remaining monies, \$6,544, can be earmarked for spending this year. Director Quinn can spend \$2,726 from the Anderson Fund over the course of this year. In keeping with the original bequest, this should be spent on books of any media, or literacy programs and should be spent in full this year. There is a further \$3,817 available from the Memorial Fund – this can be spent on any purpose identified by the Director though should be shared with the Board for approval. If this money is not spent in 2025, it will be added to the Memorial Fund principal.

As these monies are spent over the course of the year, Director Quinn should keep Ms. Kaiser informed of the expenditure by fund.

Quarterly Update

We started the second quarter with a total of \$139,084 across the two funds. On the income side, we received a contribution of \$25.00 and enjoyed a growth in our assets of \$809. On expenditures, we spent \$5,424 on new bookshelves (split between Memorial and Anderson Funds) and \$360 on bookkeeping (Judy's work), which is split equally across both funds. This left us at the end of the fourth quarter with \$134,144.25.

Over the course of the year, we exhausted the funds allocated to be spent against both the Memorial and Anderson Funds so there was nothing left for Director Quinn to either spend further or add to the fund base.

The Village has provided the Library with a credit card which will make it much easier to pay certain vendors who only accept credit cards. These include some newspaper subscriptions, Zoom renewal, museum memberships, etc. Previously, we had been using the Friends' card and would reimburse them by requisitioning a check from the Village. Now, when the Village gets the monthly credit card bill, they will deduct what we spent from our budget lines.

ICE and Immigration Policies

Earlier today, Debbie and Jacqueline attended a webinar arranged by WLS entitled "Knowing Your Rights" which was sponsored by Neighborhood Link Community Law Practice (NKCKP). It was very informative. Terry Kirchner sent copies of a policy template from the webinar as well as a New York specific supplement to ALA's "How to Respond to Law Enforcement Requests for Library Records and User Information." The board is reviewing these protocols.

Adult Programs

Daniel Belasco's "Women in Mid-Century America" drew a big crowd of over 65 people on Sunday, January 12th. He was a very good speaker and had a well-organized Power Point. The Rivertowns Dispatch ran two articles on the talk - one before the talk and one after.

There were about 30 people in attendance for the showing of *Good Morning, Vietnam* on Thursday, January 16th as part of the Senior Thursdays program. Word of mouth seems to be drawing more people.

The first Local Luminaries of 2025 featured the Rivertowns Ramblers on Thursday, January 16th. They were fantastic musicians, storytellers, and singers—they had it all! It was a fun, cheerful event and had a great turnout of about 60 to 70 people.

The Keeping It Real book club met on January 10th to discuss *Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness and the Tragedy of Good Intentions* by Jonathan Rosen. Mike had about 15 people in attendance, and they had an in-depth discussion. Joanna Riesman has reached out to Jonathan Rosen about giving a talk at the library about the book.

Tech Fridays has held about three thus far. Each time at least two seniors have met with teens to get help with their iPhones, Kindles, and other electronic devices.

Dance for Parkinson's started back up today and will run through June.

Tim's Pastoral Lit class has been a delight.

Youth Programs

Ross Abrams, an English teacher from HHS, reached out to Debbie. He is offering an elective called "Bookshelf" which is basically reading whatever you want! He was surprised to learn many of his students did not have library cards, so Debbie sent him library card applications to distribute. Allee is going to input the info for the cards and then she is going to give a presentation to his class about everything the library and WLS has to offer if you have a library card. It's a great way to connect with HHS, which hasn't always been successful. Leave it to Ross Abrams—the best!

Allee's toddler times, fingerplay, Gigglethump and book clubs are going strong.

Allee has invited Jeremy Galland to do another session of chess instruction in March.

Allee and Metha would like to get a tablet for posting social media items. The Friends will pick up the tab. Metha is going to choose both the tablet as well as the dedicated computer for the Orr Room's AV needs.

Upcoming Programs

Emily Denise will run the Senior Art Workshop on Friday, February 14th. She will lead the class in still life painting in the Barnes Room. A light breakfast will be served.

MaryJane Shimsky will present "Crisis in Women's Health Care" on Sunday, March 2nd.

A nurse from St. John's External Affairs Office called and proposed a talk by a doctor on Women's Health. It seems like a huge topic for an hour's presentation. She will be in touch again with a more specific topic. She said she has worked with Anne Russak of Senior Outreach at the Community Center.

Amy Flader will talk about green roofs at the next Local Luminaries, scheduled for Thursday, March 27th.

Gil Reavil is scheduled to talk on Sunday, March 30th about his book in progress on John Singer Sargent.

Facilities

One of the fairly new faucets in the men's bathroom needs to be replaced. Debbie will review the invoice to see if it is still under warranty.

We have had to have PTG come twice to replace light bulbs in the round ceiling fixtures. We got a grant in 2017 to replace lights with LED's which are supposed to last a long time. These clearly are not LED's. Another project to investigate.

Friends

The Friends are looking forward to the beginning of their Sundays at the Library lecture series (formerly The Gamut.) First up, Danielle DeSouza will present "Literary Savior: How Libraries Can Impact the Lives of Troubled Children" on Sunday, February 23rd.

Barron Lerner will be talking about the changing views on obesity, from stigma to disease to Ozempic.

Library Giving Day is April 1st. Members of the Friends will be soliciting memberships and sign people up for [escrip.com](https://www.escrip.com) at Foodtown.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 7:30pm.