

**EMMA S. CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 15, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library Association was called to order at 7:32 PM by Linda Josephs, President. The following trustees of the Board, consisting of a quorum, were present: Deborah Blair, Treasurer, Suzanne Shane, Carol Leister, Christopher Fletcher, Secretary and Anthony Parlatore. Excused were Orlando Maione, Vice President, Fred Bryant and Richard Russell. Also present was Ted Gutmann, Library Director.

I. PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION

No one from the public wished to speak.

II. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Dennis Stoner from the firm of Baldessari & Coster, LLP reviewed the 2016 auditor's report with the Board.

III. MINUTES

Deborah Blair made a motion to accept the minutes of February 15, 2017 as revised; seconded by Carol Leister and passed unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nominating committee to be created. Place advertising for the open position. Applications to be due by April 15th. Committee will then meet to review applications and bring back to the Board. Members of the committee will be Linda Josephs, Suzanne Shane and Anthony Parlatore.

We had a brief discussion about our room use policy for religious or political purposes.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

All the bills are paid and we are consistent with our budget. Anthony Parlatore made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report seconded by Suzanne Shane and passed unanimously.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

GENERAL NEWS:

On February 23, we had another successful “Take Your Child to the Library Day” event, with over 300 attendees.

This year’s winners of the Helen Stein Shack Book Award will be announced on March 23. They are also expected to be highlighted in the 3/23 edition of the Village Times Herald along with an article about the late Mrs. Shack and her family’s endowment to the library.

Librarian Carolyn Emerson applied for a grant with Humanities New York to offer a discussion series on some of the writings of James Baldwin. The grant was approved and awarded, and Carolyn will be moderating the four-part discussion series “James Baldwin’s America: A Reading and Discussion Series” taking place in April and May. Participants will complete readings and attend discussions facilitated by scholars specializing in the subject matter. The series was “sold out” less than 24 hours after it was announced.

Kevin Verbese sent out an email to all directors letting them know that one of the member libraries was recently challenged on its prohibition against organizations using its meeting room for religious purposes. After consulting with their attorney that library recognized that they were on “thin legal ice” and amended their meeting room policy to eliminate their prohibition against religion and religious organizations.

According to Kevin Seaman, with regard to religious activities, a library can only prohibit “worship services.” Kevin Seaman sent out an email to his client libraries regarding a question that a director had about a church wanting to use their meeting rooms for a discussion/educational program on the “Near East genesis of a particular religion”. Kevin Seaman’s response to that director:

“The subject instruction/ discussion re. the Near East genesis of a particular religion and its tenets must be permitted to take place in the Library’s meeting room.

To determine otherwise would be inflicting a prohibited non – viewpoint neutral take on the sought use. Only if worship services are sought to be undertaken in the library would there be basis for precluding the religious group from utilizing the library’s premises. Otherwise you are violating the free speech/1st Amendment rights of the applicant or the applicant group.”

I've attached a copy of the Library's "Meeting Room Regulations" for review. I've also enclosed a copy of the American Library Association's FAQ on the subject with the Board Packets.

As part of the 2016-17 State Budget, Governor Cuomo signed legislation enacting a statewide \$15/hr minimum wage. The increases will go into effect incrementally. For Long Island, it is currently set at \$10/hr., but on 12/31/2017 it will increase to \$11/hr. and will increase by \$1.00 each subsequent year until it reaches \$15/hr. (in 2021). Our lowest paid part time employees (pages) currently start at \$10.27/hr. I thought it might be appropriate for me to begin meeting with the Personnel Committee to discuss strategies for meeting these requirements.

PERSONNEL:

Emily Ostrander will be starting as a Librarian Trainee in the Children's Department, 3/1/2017.

Donna Sullivan, Part-time Adult Reference Page, resigned, last day: 2/26/2017.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds:

No meeting. No report.

Personnel:

No meeting. No report. We will be meeting with the Director to discuss the minimum wage issues raised in the Director's Report.

Investment:

No meeting. No report.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve the withdrawal of \$1,000 from Helen Stein Shack Endowment for 2017 contest winners was made by Deborah Blair, seconded by Suzanne Shane and passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the State report was made by Anthony Parlatore, seconded by Carol Leister and passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the auditor's report was made by Deborah Blair, seconded by Chris Fletcher and passed unanimously.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Carol Leister and seconded by Suzanne Shane and passed unanimously at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Fletcher, Secretary