

**Regular Meeting  
Nioga Board of Trustees  
January 24, 2023  
Nioga Headquarters  
Approved**

The regular meeting of the Nioga Library System Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at Nioga Headquarters, Lockport, New York.

**Present:** Charles Begley, Craig Bacon, Dan Haight, Ken Hamilton, Jeanne Tuohey, Jeffrey Laub, Kristie Miller, Patricia Nagel, and Marilyn Zaciewski

**Absent:** Andrea Fetterly, Mary Anne Braunbach

**Staff members present:** Tom Bindeman, Lisa Erickson, and Laura Jeffery

**OPEN HEARING**

There was no business brought forth in the Open Hearing.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Begley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mr. Haight.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Action:** It was moved by Ms. Jeanne Tuohey to accept the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting as presented. Ms. Patty Nagel seconded and the motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance and Audit Committee**

The Monthly Budget Reports for November and December were included in the Board Packet.

Schedule of Payments – November 2022

General Fund 2022-11 PR, GF &SRF	\$172,601.67
LAA Account 2022-11-LAA	\$ 1,779.88

Schedule of Payments – December 2022

General Fund 2022-12 PR, GF &SRF	\$223,035.07
LAA Account 2022 -12-LAA	\$ 3,206.41

Mr. Haight stated that the finances are all in order. Mr. Haight also stated Lumsden McCormick LLP are finalizing the 2021 Audit.

**Reoccurring Bills**

A list of monthly reoccurring bills to was included in the Board Packet.

**Action:** It was moved by Mr. Haight that Nioga be allowed to pay reoccurring bills on a monthly basis without prior approval from the Nioga Board, Mr. Laub seconded and the motion carried.

## **Community Reports:**

### **Nominating Committee**

#### **Update on openings**

Mr. Laub, Chair of the committee, noted that there will be two upcoming vacancies on the Nioga Board of Trustees. Ms. Mary Anne Braunbach, the representative for Orleans County is nearing the end of her second term and is ineligible to run again. Mr. Hamilton, representing the City of Niagara Falls, is nearing the end of his appointed term. Mr. Hamilton has indicated he is willing to run for his first term.

### **Program Committee**

#### **Nioga's Annual Dinner update**

Ms. Zaciewski reported to the Board of Trustees the Annual Dinner is Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at Batavia Downs, in the Park Place Room, in Genesee County.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Ethics Statement**

The Nioga Trustee Ethics statement was included in the Board Packet.

### **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

The Nioga Trustee Conflict of Interest declaration was included in the Board Packet. Board members must sign and return.

### **New Directors**

Mr. Begley reported that Newfane Public Library has hired Ms. Sarah O'Shea as their new Director and Richmond Memorial Library has hired Ms. Beth Paine as their new Director.

### **Nioga Library System 2023 Calendars**

The Nioga Library System 2023 Calendar was included in the Board Packet.

### **Director's Report**

#### **Update on State budget for FY2023**

Mr. Bindeman reported that the Governor released her state budget on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Governor is projecting a surplus of \$8 billion in next year's budget and is proposing an increase of 10% in state aid to education. (She is also proposing \$600 million for a new stadium for the Buffalo Bills.) The Governor is proposing to reduce state aid for libraries by \$3.5 million and a \$20 million cut in the public library construction program.

Mr. Bindeman is urging all library supporters to contact their state senator or assembly person asking their support the following proposed library budget items: \$147 million in library operating aid; \$69.4 million in library construction aid and \$150,000 for the "Love Your Library" campaign.

### **Trustee Training Requirements and Cont'd Education Schedule**

The Nioga Library System 2023 Trustee training requirements was included in the Board Packet.

### **Resolution to change By-Laws**

The By-Laws of the Nioga Board of Trustees will be amended to reflect the state requirement of annual trustee training. Mr. Bindeman explained to the Board of Trustees that Nioga's Attorney suggests that the Board approve two resolutions to change the

By-Laws: The first resolution at the January 24, 2023 Board meeting and the second resolution at the March 21, 2023 Board meeting.

**Action:** It was moved by Mr. Bacon that The Board to Trustees to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** § 260-d of the New York Education Law was added to require that:

*"Beginning January first, two thousand twenty-three, each member, elected or appointed, of a board of trustees of a public, free association or Indian library shall be required to complete a minimum of two hours of trustee education annually, from a provider approved by the commissioner on the financial oversight, accountability, fiduciary responsibilities and the general powers and duties of a library trustee"*

and further to require that that:

*"Each member shall demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this section by filing with the president of the board of trustees evidence of completion of trustee education from an approved provider."*

and further to require that:

*"Such evidence shall include one of the following:*

*(a) certificates of completion issued by one or more approved providers;*

*(b) a signed self-assurance of completion. Such assurance shall identify the approved trustee education providers, a description of the*

*time such member began and completed each instruction activity and an explanation of why a certificate of completion was not available from such approved providers."*

and further to allow that:

*"Actual and necessary expenses incurred by a member in complying with this section shall be a charge against the library;"* and

**WHEREAS** the By-Laws of the System may be amended "by a two-thirds vote of the Board at a regular, special or annual meeting, provided the changes shall have been submitted at an earlier regular meeting of the Board and a copy of the proposed changes mailed or given to each Board member at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken"; and

**WHEREAS** the Board wishes to submit for consideration the attached amendments to the By-Laws, addressing the new requirements listed above;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board shall note in the minutes of this January 24, 2023 meeting that the Board has received for consideration the attached amendments; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that an additional copy of the proposed changes shall be mailed or given to each Board member at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting set for **March 21, 2023**, where the vote on such amendment is to be taken.

Mr. Haight seconded and the motion carried.

### **Member Library Circulation Statistics for the year 2022**

2022 Member Library Circulation Statistics report was included in the Board Packet.

### **Advocacy Update**

Thomas Bindeman urged the Board of Trustees to write to their Assemblymen and Senator's to please continue to support Library funding and explain how this funding is being used in the library.

### **Library Issues**

Several articles regarding book banning were included in the Board Packet.

## **COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH UPDATE**

### **Annual reports**

Lisa Erickson stated that State portal is not open yet. Ms. Erickson stated she will be planning workshops for the member libraries when the portal opens up.

### **State Construction update**

Lisa Erickson stated the awards from 2022 have gone out.

### **Extension Services Report**

A monthly report from Sara Taylor was included in the Board Packet.

### **Youth Services Report**

A monthly report from Laura Harold was included in the Board Packet.

## **MEMBER LIBRARY DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' COMMENTS, ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

### **Old Business**

None presented.

### **New Business**

None presented.

### **Next Scheduled Board Meeting**

The next Nioga Board Meeting is: March 21, 2023

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

**Action:** Mr. Haight made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hamilton seconded and the motion carried

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Secretary, Ms. Kristie Miller