

**Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees
Nioga Library System
March 19, 2024**

Draft

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Nioga Library System was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Trustees Present: Charles Begley, Tamman Kinan, Jeffrey Laub, Kristie Miller, Andrea Fetterly, Craig Bacon, Howard Balaban, Marilyn Zaciewski, Dan Haight, Patty Nagel and Jeanne Tuohey

Staff Present: Thomas Bindeman, Lisa Erickson and Laura Jeffery

Guests: Mr. Jeremy Smith, CPA with Lumsden McCormick Certified Public Accountants

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Haight

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: It was moved by Ms. Fetterly to accept the minutes from the January 23, 2024 meeting as presented. Ms. Kinan seconded and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Audit Committee

The Monthly Budget Reports for January and February 2024 were included in the Board Packet. Also included were the Monthly Payroll reports for January and February 2024.

Schedule of Payments:

January 2024	
General Fund 2024-01-G-	\$32,264.72
LAA Account 2024-01-LAA	\$ 8,063.03
February 2024	
General Fund 2024-02-G	\$325,609.36
LAA Account 2024-02-LAA	\$21,687.65

Mr. Haight reviewed the financial reports.

Audit for FY2022

Mr. Haight introduced the Board of Trustees to Mr. Jeremy Smith with Lumsden McCormick Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Smith reviewed the FY2022 Audit.

A copy of the Audit was included in the Board Packet

Action: It was moved by Mr. Haight to accept the Audit for FY2022 as presented. Mr. Balaban seconded and the motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Laub gave an update on board vacancies. There will be two vacancies on the Nioga Board of Trustees this year: Mr. Bacon, representative for the City of Lockport, is nearing the end of his first term and Mr. Begley is nearing the end of his appointed term. Mr. Begley and Mr. Bacon have agreed to run again.

Program Committee

Ms. Zaciewski gave an update on the 2024 Annual Dinner. The Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2024 in Niagara County at the Wurlitzer Building Event Center, 908 Niagara Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda, NY. Guests may arrive at 5:30 pm. A buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and the program will follow afterwards.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Resignation of Administrative Assistant – Margaret Thomas

Action: It was moved by Ms. Tuohey to accept the Resignation of Margaret Thomas. Mr. Laub seconded and the motion carried

Trustee Training Schedule

A schedule of training sessions was included in the Board Packet.

2024 Eclipse

Action: It was moved by Mr. Balaban to close Nioga, April 8th 2024. Ms. Zaciewski seconded and the motion carried.

Accept Bullet Aid \$120,000

Action: It was moved by Mr. Bacon to accept the legislative Bullet Aid in the amount of \$120,000. Ms. Miller seconded and the motion carried. The distribution list was include in the Board Packet.

Accept Niagara County Grant \$288,912

An annual grant has been received from Niagara County in the amount of \$288,912.00. Funds will be distributed to the eleven member libraries in Niagara County.

Action: It was moved by Ms. Miller to accept the Niagara County Grant. Mr. Haight seconded and the motion carried.

Summer Reading Program Grant \$400 per Library (total \$8,400)

Mr. Begley reported that \$8,400 was included in the 2024 Nioga Budget for the Summer Reading Program. Each Library has received \$400.

Patron Counts, Items Owned, Registration & Renewals

These reports were included in the Board Packet.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Update on Proposed 2025 State Budget

Mr. Bindeman stated that the Governor is proposing an increase in state aid for libraries. Funding for NOVELny is also proposed.

Advocacy Efforts

Mr. Bindeman meets with Assemblymen, Assemblywomen and Senators to emphasize the importance of Library funding for our libraries. He believes bullet aid is the direct result of these advocacy efforts.

Update on Union Negotiations

Mr. Bindeman gave any update on union negotiations.

Update on Newfane Library

Mr. Bindeman reported that the Newfane Library has a governing body in place and that the Library has started the search for a new director. He also stated that the Library is closed right now for renovations.

E-books article

An article on e-books was included in the Board Packet.

COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH REPORT:

Annual Reports:

Ms. Erickson stated all libraries have completed their annual reports and they have been submitted to the State.

Extension Services Update

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

Youth Services Update

A monthly report from Laura Herold, Youth Services Librarian, was included in the Board Packet.

MEMBER LIBRARY DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES COMMENTS, ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Ms. Kinan stated that NFL has started a digital printing service and Ms. Potwin has enrolled in an MBA Program.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

OTHER

None presented.

Upcoming Meetings

The next schedule board meeting is April 16, 2024 at Nioga Headquarters. The Annual Dinner is scheduled for May 23, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm

Secretary