

**Blake Memorial Library Association Annual Meeting  
September 20, 2022**

Minutes

Present: Shirley Montagne, KellyAnne Donahue, Marian Cawley, Rob Rinaldi, Tania Aebi, Nick Kramer, Catherine Tudish, Scott Elledge, Steve Long, Mary Hays, Jen Spanier, Barry Shaw, Sheila Herman, Kimberly Hotelling. On Zoom: Dina Dubois, Carol Freeman, Anne McKinsey, Ginny Barlow, John and Susan Morris, Lisa Locke.

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 pm.

President Shirley Montagne introduced the board of trustees.

Roll call for association members. Shirley explained the roll call process, and how members can be invited to join the association. The following new members were nominated from the floor by Steve Long: Kimberly Hotelling, Rob Rinaldi, Marian Cawley, Tania Aebi, Nick Kramer, Barry Shaw, Dina Dubois, Carl Demrow. Shirley Montagne seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously, and the new association members were welcomed.

The president then offered the minutes of the 2019 association meeting for review. Rob Rinaldi moved the minutes be accepted, KellyAnne Donahue seconded. The minutes were adopted.

Shirley gave a brief summary of the presidents report, highlighting the renovations, strategic plan adoption, summer camp and the summer camp grants. She also covered the garden, house, and art tour from this past summer. Sheila noted that this summer's garden, house, and art tour was exceptional and Mary Hays agreed. Shirley thanked both Ann Peck and Sue Pratt for all their hard work to make the tour a success.

Shirley also thanked the staff for their hard work and they received an ovation from the room, and the staff also thanked the volunteers for helping to make the library run.

Dina thanked Rob for providing pizza at the plant sale and donating the proceeds to the library. She also thanked Nick for helping Rob with the pizza.

Shirley then mentioned the need to re-elect the board this evening. She acknowledged the term limitations noted in the bylaws. She suggested re-electing the board as a slate, and that the board would work out the staggered terms at an upcoming meeting. Mary Hays spoke of the importance of the term limitations and others concurred.

Jen gave a quick summary of the directors report to date for 2022. Story hour is back and there are now after school programs and the library has been open for regular hours all year. Programming has included a mix of in person, remote, and hybrid formats. There were some helpful grants that allowed both the expansion of collections and a very large screen for movie night. This fall there are a few new technology features coming including the palace app, and there will be an expanded catalogue, search, and patron account software called Aspen.

Mary Hays commented that the library seems to be going in a great direction and she is comforted by that.

Steve Long nominated Shirley Montagne, Rob Rinaldi, Nick Kramer, Tania Aebi, Dina Dubois, Kathryn Price, and Carl Demrow to the board. Mary Hays seconded, and the board was elected unanimously.

Shirley then gave the treasurers report and spoke of the importance of our fundraising efforts and endowment revenues to keep the library afloat.

Payroll, collections, electricity are the big expenses. There was discussion about the conversion to heat pumps and their expense.

Anne McKinsey suggested looking into solar and she and Rob Rinaldi may come up with a proposal for that. Shirley mentioned her past calls to Sun Common and the cost involved with solar. She expressed that at this point, we would need a grant to make solar work financially.

Shirley went over the committees and made a plug for folks to join a committee.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and Nick seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.