THE FERGUSON LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 29, 2015

Present:

Board Members: E. Abate, Chair; G. Caggainello; S. Frederick; S. Goldstein; M. Lyons; L. Rizzuto; S. Wise

Citizen Advisers: R. Amen; M. Cacace; W. Callion; T. Cassone; S. Cohen; S. DiMattia; A. Livingston; G. Malloy; P. O’Brien Morrow

Staff: A. Knapp; L. Avellar; N. Bochicchio; S. LaPerla; G. Nichols (via phone);

Mr. Abate called the meeting to order.

Mr. Abate introduced and welcomed the guests and new Citizen Advisers attending the meeting.

Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2015 Board meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Bochicchio reviewed fiscal year 2015 results on an adjusted cash basis. He also presented a report on financial results through August 31, 2015.

President’s Report

Ms. Knapp discussed Summer Reading Club results for children, teens and adults. She also commented on new employees who have recently joined the library staff, as well as recent circulation statistics. She also distributed a draft of the 2014-2015 Annual Report.

Executive Committee

Mr. Abate said that the Executive Committee met on September 29th and reviewed the matters on the Board of Trustees agenda. Draft minutes of this meeting were distributed.

Building Committee

Mr. Frederick provided updates on the handicapped access project, which is underway, and the façade project, for which contracts are being prepared. A
motion was made, seconded and approved to ratify the Executive Committee action giving Alice Knapp authority to execute a contract with Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc. for the façade project, for a cost not to exceed $378,000.

Long Range Planning

Ms. Goldstein reviewed and commented on a “dashboard” report of strategic plan results for the year ending June 30, 2015. Ms. Knapp reported on the Library’s participation in an Aspen Institute pilot project on “Re-envisioning your Public Library”.

Pension Committee

Mr. Caggainello said that the Pension Committee met on September 16th with the plan’s investment advisor. The investment results are ahead of benchmarks. No change in asset allocation was recommended.

Personnel Committee

Mr. Abate said that negotiations with the employee bargaining unit are continuing. The principle focus is on the staff medical plan and the differences between the current plan and the state employee plan, which will soon be available to municipalities and municipal-funded agencies.

Ferguson Foundation

Mr. Cassone reported that the Ferguson Library Foundation Board of Trustees met on September 16th. The investment advisor gave a report on the investment portfolio, which as of August 31, 2015 totaled $944,470. The Foundation’s bylaws were revised and plans for the Ernest DiMattia Building Fund were discussed.

Friends of Ferguson

Ms. DiMattia reported on the passing of Sam Hammock, longtime Friends member. Plans for the Literary Pub Crawl and Author Series were discussed, as were Book Shop activities.

2015-2016 Operating Budget

Mr. Abate distributed the 2015-2016 Operating Budget which was proposed to the Board of Trustees in June, but not acted upon in anticipation of a union contract settlement early in the new fiscal year. Because of delays in settling the contract, he asked that the budget be approved since it was effectively the budget being used. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the 2015-2016 Operating Budget as proposed.
Nominating Committee

Mr. Abate presented the report on the Nominating Committee. New trustees nominated include:

- Edward Schuster, for the unexpired term of Laurence Morse who resigned his seat.

Nominated for officer positions are:

  Greg Caggainello – Chair
  Ellen Bromley, Esq. – Vice Chair
  Steven Wise – Treasurer
  Steven Frederick – Secretary

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Nominating Committee recommendations for Board positions and officers. Mr. Abate reported that the Mayor has appointed William Callion to a 5-year term on the Board.

Other Business

The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

  That the new officers, as well as the President of the Library, be authorized for, and on behalf of, this corporation to transact any and all business with the following banks:

      Bank of America
      First County Bank
      First Niagara Bank
      Wells Fargo Bank

  and that the Director of Administrative Services be eligible to sign expense checks for The Ferguson Library.

The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

  WHEREAS, Ernest N. Abate, Esq. has served as a member of the Board for five years, 2010 – 2015; and

  WHEREAS, Ernest N. Abate, Esq. has served as Board Chair for one year, and Vice Chair for one year; and
WHEREAS, Ernest N. Abate, Esq. has served as Chair of the Executive, Bylaws, Nominating and Personnel Committees, and as a member of the Building, Development and Pension Committees, as well as Board Liaison to the Ferguson Library Foundation and the Friends of Ferguson Library Board of Directors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of The Ferguson Library hereby extends its sincere appreciation to Ernest N. Abate, Esq. for his distinguished service.

The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

WHEREAS, Dr. Edward Schuster has served as a member of the Board for five years, 2010 – 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edward Schuster has served as Chair of the Education and Nominating Committees, and as a member of the Development and Long Range Planning Committees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of The Ferguson Library hereby extends its sincerest appreciation to Dr. Edward Schuster for his distinguished service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sandy Goldstein
Secretary