

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
October 29, 2007 and January 29, 2008**

The Annual Meeting of the Great Neck Library Association was held at the offices of the Great Neck Library on Monday, October 29, 2007, and Tuesday, January 29, 2008. (Agenda attached).

**Monday, October 29, 2007**

President David Kahn called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., on Monday, October 29, 2007, for the purpose of voting for one member of the Board of Trustees and one member of the Nominating Committee.

Voting in person took place from 10:05 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Main Library, 159 Bayview Avenue, Great Neck, NY, and in the Parkville Branch at 10 Campbell Street, New Hyde Park, NY. After the closing of polls at 10:00 p.m., the Annual Re-Organization Meeting was recessed until January 29, 2008.

**Tuesday, January 29, 2008**

The Annual Re-Organization Meeting was convened at 8:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, at the offices of the Great Neck Library, 159 Bayview Avenue, Great Neck, New York.

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum of the Board:

David Kahn, President  
Linda Cohen, Vice President  
Andrew Greene, Secretary  
Norman Rutta, Treasurer  
Marietta DiCamillo, Assistant Treasurer  
Janet Eshaghoff, Assistant Treasurer  
Martin Sokol

Also present:                      Laura Weir, Interim Library Director  
                                                 Neil Zitofsky, Business Manager

The attendance sheet is appended to these minutes.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Kahn called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

## MINUTES

Upon motion by Linda Cohen, seconded by Marietta DiCamillo, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library approve the Minutes of the October 30, 2006, Annual Meeting and January 30, 2007, Annual Re-Organization Meeting, as presented.

**VOTE:** Yes 7 (Cohen, DiCamillo, Eshaghoff, Greene, Kahn, Rutta, Sokol)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## ELECTION RESULTS

Secretary Greene reported on the results of the October 29, 2007 election as follows:

Board of Trustees

Allegra Goldberg – 162 votes  
Anna M. Kaplan – 978 votes

Nominating Committee

Hadassa Legatt – 363 votes

Anna Kaplan was welcomed to the Board of Trustees and Hadassa Legatt to the Nominating Committee. Allegra Goldberg was thanked for her willingness to be involved in the Library.

Bylaw Amendments

*Proposition to change from voting by proxies to voting by absentee ballots:*  
Yes 177; No 740

*Proposition for the Business Manager to be hired by the Board of Trustees instead of the Director:*  
Yes 158; No 748

A two-thirds affirmative vote of the members voting, in person or by proxy is required for an amendment to the Bylaws. So both propositions fell short of the two-thirds affirmative vote and they failed. The proxy system is still in place, and the Director will hire the Business Manager.

## REPORTS

The annual report, containing the text of the Treasurer and Director's reports, is appended.

President Kahn personally thanked Treasurer Rutta and Assistant Treasurer DiCamillo for their excellent work in going over the bills and keeping expenses down without a tax increase last year. Although there were differences regarding the future of the Library, he enjoyed working with them.

## **PRESENTATION**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Great Neck community, President Kahn thanked Varda Solomon, Dr. Robert Mendelson and Pat Meyersfield for their work on the Nominating Committee and he presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Trustee Kahn, retiring after six years on the Board, the last two as President, was also presented with a certificate of appreciation and a gift by Vice President Cohen. She thanked him on behalf of the Board and the community for his humor, intelligence, integrity and his mastery of the English language.

Trustee Kahn replied that it was an honor to be president and he was very glad to pay back to the community for the help the library had given to him. He went on to relate how he read a book at the Station Branch Library then located on Grace Avenue that got him started in his career of writing books. So, he owes a lot to this library and if he were able to give anything back he was very grateful to do it.

Trustee DiCamillo in her farewell speech to him was very sad to say goodbye. She appreciated his democratic and evenhanded approach. Although they did not always see eye to eye on every single item, he gave everyone the opportunity to plead their case. He is fair and considerate and he will be very missed. His humor and light heartedness cannot be replaced.

Ralene Adler stated that he was never one to flaunt his credentials or his world renowned accomplishments. He is a recognized author, expert on World War II, former Newsday Editor, and prolific writer and yet he volunteered his time for many years for the betterment of the Great Neck community. She thanked him for giving so much to the community through his generous service to the Library.

Barbara Zeller added that the best things in life are sometimes free. Volunteerism is a very worthy commodity. She thanked Trustee Kahn for all that he tried to pay back to the community.

Stanley Romaine commended him for the very nice job he did and he is hopeful that under the new administration the Library will finally get upgraded.

Following this, there was a brief intermission at 8:25 p.m. to allow the incoming Trustee to take her seat.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Greene, Secretary

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board reconvened at 8:37 p.m. at which time Vice President Cohen took the chair until the new president was elected. She welcomed Anna Kaplan to the Board, and called for the election of President.

### **a) Election of Officers**

President - Andrew Greene nominated Martin Sokol, seconded by Linda Cohen. Norman Rutta nominated Andrew Greene, who declined.  
Vote: yes – 5 (Cohen, Eshaghoff, Greene, Kaplan, Sokol)  
No – 2 (DiCamillo, Rutta)  
*Martin Sokol was elected President.*

Newly-elected President Sokol thanked David Kahn for his past service in bringing Intelligence and dignity to the Great Neck Library. He also thanked the majority of the Trustees for their confidence in him and he certainly hoped to earn it. He continued with the nominations for the other offices.

Vice President - Linda Cohen nominated Andrew Greene, seconded by Janet Eshaghoff. No other nominations were received.  
*Andrew Greene was unanimously elected Vice President.*

Treasurer - Janet Eshaghoff nominated Marietta DiCamillo, seconded by Linda Cohen. There were no other nominations. *Marietta DiCamillo was unanimously elected Treasurer.*

Asst. Treasurer - Andrew Greene nominated Janet Eshaghoff, seconded by Linda Cohen. There were no other nominations. *Janet Eshaghoff was unanimously elected Assistant Treasurer.*

Asst. Treasurer - Marietta DiCamillo nominated Norman Rutta. There was no second. Andrew Greene nominated Anna Kaplan, seconded by Linda Cohen. *Anna Kaplan was unanimously elected Assistant Treasurer.*

Secretary - Marietta DiCamillo nominated Norman Rutta. There was no second. Anna Kaplan nominated Linda Cohen, seconded by Andrew Greene. *Linda Cohen was unanimously elected Secretary.*

President Sokol congratulated all the officers and looked forward to a productive year. He personally thanked former Treasurer Rutta and Assistant Treasurer DiCamillo. For the past two years, the Library was very fortunate to have a true professional as Treasurer of the Library. There was a lot of work involved and he personally thanked him and spoke for all the Trustees.

Trustee DiCamillo thanked her fellow colleagues for electing her as Treasurer and she assured the public as well as the Board that she will personally review every check issued, and all financial procedures and controls will be in place.

**b) 2008/2009 Meeting Dates**

Linda Cohen motioned and Marietta DiCamillo seconded for the Board of Trustees to accept the following calendar for its meetings for 2008/2009:

Tuesday, February 26\* or February 19 – Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 18 – Budget Workshop  
Tuesday, March 25 – Board Meeting/Budget Workshop  
Tuesday, April 15\* – Budget Hearing/Adoption  
Tuesday, April 29 – Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 20 – Board Meeting – Parkville Branch  
Tuesday, June 24 – Board Meeting  
Tuesday, September 23 – Board Meeting  
Thursday, October 23 – Board Meeting  
Monday, October 27 – Annual Meeting/Voting – Main & Parkville Branch  
Tuesday, November 25 – Board Meeting – Parkville Branch  
Tuesday, December 23 – Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 20, 2009 – Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 27, 2009 – Annual Re-Organization Meeting

\*The February 26 meeting date was changed to Wednesday, February 27 and the April 15 to April 17.

Trustee Greene motioned for the acceptance of the amended calendar for 2008/2009 meeting dates. All were in favor of the amended resolution.

**c) Board Elected Members to the Nominating Committee**

There were two vacant Board-elected positions on the Nominating Committee for a one-year term ending January 2009.

Upon motion by Linda Cohen, seconded by Anna Kaplan, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library appoint [elect] Sandra Salat and Daniel Nachmanoff for a one-year term on the Nominating Committee commencing January 2008 and ending January 2009.

Regarding the appointment of Daniel Nachmanoff, Ralene Adler asked whether he would be serving in the capacity as a resident or agent of County Executive Suozzi as he is on the Nassau County Committee to consolidate. She was informed that Mr. Nachmanoff put forward his name in response to an announcement in the

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Library's newsletter and local newspapers and he is serving as a resident. The Board was asked to find out from Mr. Nachmanoff himself, to which President Sokol replied that the Board would take it under advisement. As a point of clarification, Trustee DiCamillo brought out that the application came in on Nassau County letterhead and she had concerns with that.

**VOTE:** Yes 7 (Cohen, DiCamillo, Eshaghoff, Greene, Kaplan, Rutta, Sokol)  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **OPEN TIME**

Trustee DiCamillo informed the meeting that she attended a Great Neck School Board of Education meeting last evening and approval was granted for Lockheed Martin to sink wells on the Parkville School property where the Parkville Branch Library is located. Half of the parking lot will be the site for heavy equipment. Work will begin in 10 days and she would like for the Interim Director to contact Dr. Friedman, Superintendent, to find out how this will affect the staff and patrons of that branch and that the Great Neck School System provide Parkville with information flier to hand out to our patrons.

Marianna Wohlgemuth, a member of the public, also stated that she was at that meeting. It was reported that there was critical overcrowding at the South High School. She asked the Building Committee to reassess the location of the Main Library to meet the needs of an ever growing population of young people and find a location more south. President Sokol asked her to put that formally in a letter.

Karen Rubin in clarifying the demographics said the school is entertaining hiring a demographer who will asses trends. The fact that the population of North is smaller than South means that a higher population in the northern end of the school district goes to private and parochial schools. It is erroneous to assume there is a swelling of one side over another.

### Updates

Jo Ann Farley requested update on the telephone/internet problem at Lakeville and Station Branches. The telephone company had promised the return of service by February 7. The Library's attorney had put a call to Broadview and he was awaiting a response from them. Trustee DiCamillo asked how long it would take if Broadview were to be replaced with another provider. The Business Manager replied that he could not get anyone to do it short term until the Library has met with the computer consultant. He and Janet Fine will be meeting with the computer consultant on Friday. He was asked to keep the Board informed.

The attorneys for the Library and H2L2 architects met. The Trustees did receive the attorney's report late that afternoon but they needed time to go over it before discussing publicly. It will be reported on at the February Board meeting. President Sokol informed everyone that there will be a lot of special meetings and he understood how difficult it was to get everyone together but as long as he can get a quorum, he will call meetings as needed. Jonathan Kahn, member of the audience, requested of

the Board to expand their negotiating team to include a member of the Board. Board approval would be required to do this.

President Sokol asked the public to limit their comments to no more than three minutes.

Trustees were asked to inform the President of the committees they would like to serve on by email the next day.

Speaking: Marianna Wohlgemuth, Karen Rubin, Stanley Romaine, Ralene Adler,  
Jo Ann Farley, Jonathan Kahn, Lillian Hoffman, David Kahn

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:25 pm., Linda Cohen moved and Marietta DiCamillo seconded for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss the Director Search. All were in favor and the Board went into Executive Session. On motion by Marietta DiCamillo and seconded by Linda Cohen the Board came out of Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cohen  
Secretary