

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 2020 AND JANUARY 5, 2021**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020**

The Annual Meeting/Election of the Great Neck Library Association was held on Monday, October 26, 2020 for the purpose of voting to fill two expiring seats on the Board of Trustees (Josephine Pizer and Rebecca Miller) and two expiring seats on the Nominating Committee (Cheng Carey Ye and Siu Song “Alex” Au).

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Hu (Main Library) and Trustee Miller (Parkville Branch Library) at 10:00 a.m. Voting took place in person from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Main Library, 159 Bayview Road Great Neck, New York 11021, and in the Parkville Branch at 10 Campbell Street, New Hyde Park, New York 11040. Trustee Sontag (Main Library) and President Yan (Parkville Branch Library) declared the polls closed at 10:00 p.m.

The Re-Organization portion of the Annual Meeting was recessed until Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021**

The Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees, was convened at 6:03 p.m. via WebEx. The agenda is attached.

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

Weihua Yan - President  
Liman Mimi Hu – Vice President  
Scott Sontag - Secretary  
Rebecca Miller - Treasurer  
Chelsea Sassouni – Assistant Treasurer  
Barry Smith - Trustee

Also present:

George Trepp – Interim Director  
Steven Kashkin – Business Manager  
Peter Fishbein – Library Counsel

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Yan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT**

President Yan welcomed all in attendance and wished everyone a happy new year. He announced that the reports from the President, Treasurer and Director are contained within the Annual Report that has been made available at this meeting. President Yan expressed relief that 2020 is behind us and noted how the current pandemic has impacted many lives. The Great Neck library had to close all locations in early spring but despite all the challenges the staff stepped up and quickly learned how to provide virtual services. President Yan said he is hopeful that all the experiences we have gone through will

help the library move forward and provide better opportunities in the future. He added that the pandemic also paused many of the library's initiatives including the branch renovations and the search for a new director. President Yan said that the board worked with an outside expert to review the library policies and how the board functions in order to streamline the processes and do more with less. He thanked his fellow trustees, in particular frontline workers Dr. Barry Smith and Mimi Hu for their efforts during the pandemic and their work on the policy manual and the branch renovations. Lastly, he shared how fortunate he was to have served alongside departing trustees Rebecca Miller and Josie Pizer. President Yan noted how they were his mentors, thanked them for their patience with him and wished them well.

## **MINUTES**

**Upon motion by Mimi Hu, seconded by Rebecca Miller, and after discussion, it was,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library approve the Minutes of the October 28, 2019, Annual Meeting/Election and January 7, 2020, Annual Re-Organization Meeting, as presented.

**VOTE:** Yes 6 (Yan, Hu, Sontag, Miller, Sassouni, Smith)  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORTS**

Reports from the President, Treasurer and Interim Director are in the Annual Report attached to these minutes.

## **PRESENTATION TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Board, President Yan thanked Cheng Carey Ye and Sui Song "Alex" Au for their contributions to the Nominating Committee. Certificates of Appreciation were delivered to both. The certificates read as follows: *In appreciation of your diligent and dedicated service to the Great Neck Library, your leadership role in the community, your integrity, and your professional manner.*

President Yan said the following:

*Thank you for your services the last few years. I hope that you consider doing something in the future, whether it is the same or in a different capacity. We will miss you. Thank you once again.*

## **PRESENTATION TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

On behalf of the Board, President Yan thanked Rebecca Miller and Josie Pizer for their contribution to the Board of Trustees. Certificates of Appreciation were delivered to Ms. Miller and Ms. Pizer. The certificates read as follows: *In appreciation of your diligent and dedicated service to the Great Neck Library, your leadership role in the community, your integrity, and your professional manner.*

President Yan said the following:

*Thank you, Rebecca and Josie, for showing us how to be better trustees. You will be missed. Hopefully you will continue to actively participate in library affairs and attend meetings. Trustee Hu added that her belief in a great leader is that not only can they lead but also lay a pipeline to foster future leaders which she has done. She said that Ms. Miller has accomplished so much for the library and that she appreciates her so much. Trustee Sassouni shared that when she joined the board, she was a new member and wanted to give a well-deserved nod of respect to departing trustee Pizer who was a champion for a lot. Josie made sure that the board maintained a standard of excellence and hopes that this new board will channel some of her brilliance as they move forward.*

Trustee Miller said the following:

*I would like to take a minute to express extreme gratitude to Wei for his leadership as president of the Great Neck Library through what has been an extraordinary and extremely challenging year. When he took office at the organizational meeting there were a lot of things to think about and work on. His to do list was long and that list just accelerated with the arrival of the pandemic, which of course, has disrupted every aspect of our life and reshaped how the library delivers its services and continues to drive for excellence when serving this community. Throughout that whole process and with new processes in place, meaning this way and face to face, Wei has been there to create a path forward through the uncharted territory facing us as a conscientious leader and a caretaker of this vital asset that we all care so much of. It would, in some senses, be enough to just get through it all but along the way he has also put momentum into ongoing projects and the thoughtful reforms of the board's processes that were already in motion. All of this is work that the community and the library will benefit from for years to come. There is no doubt that what he has experienced as president has been time consuming and the responsibility must have weighed heavily, I'm sure, but he did not dwell on that. Instead, he kept us focused and moving forward with the work of the trustees. I have learned from his leadership and am really thankful for it. Beyond that, of course, it has been a pleasure to serve as a pure trustee with everyone else on this body. Getting to know you all has been a pleasure as well. I am excited to see what the new board will do next. I wish you all well as we move into 2021 and beyond*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Sontag  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The new Board reconvened at 6:42 p.m. at which time Peter Fishbein, Library Counsel, welcomed new trustees Josephine Mairzadeh and Kathleen Gold.

### **(a) ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **President**

Chelsea Sassouni nominated Weihua Yan. There were no other nominations. *Weihua Yan was unanimously elected President.*

#### **Vice President**

Weihua Yan nominated Mimi Hu. *Mimi Hu was unanimously elected Vice President.*

Secretary

Weihua Yan nominated Barry Smith. There were no other nominations. *Barry Smith was unanimously elected Secretary.*

Treasurer

Barry Smith nominated Chelsea Sassouni. There were no other nominations. *Chelsea Sassouni was unanimously elected Treasurer.*

Assistant Treasurer

Weihua Yan nominated Scott Sontag. There were no other nominations. *Scott Sontag was unanimously elected Assistant Treasurer.*

Assistant Treasurer

Weihua Yan nominated Josephine Mairzadeh. There were no other nominations. *Josephine Mairzadeh was unanimously elected Assistant Treasurer.*

**(b) 2021/2022 BOARD MEETING DATES**

**Upon motion by Barry Smith seconded by Mimi Hu, and after discussion, it was,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library accept the calendar of Board of Trustees meetings for 2021/2022 [below].

2021

January 19 - Main

February 23 - Main

March 10 (Wednesday - Budget Workshop) - Station

March 22 (Monday) - Main

March 23 - Station

April 1 (Thursday - Budget Hearing & Adoption) – Main

April 20 - Main

May 25 – Main

June 22 – Lakeville

September 21 – Main

October 19 – Parkville

October 25 (Monday) Annual Meeting/Election 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Main & Parkville

November 16 – Main

December 21 – Main

2022

January 4 – Annual Re-Organization Meeting - Main

January 18 – Board Meeting - Main

**VOTE:** Yes 7 (Yan, Hu, Smith, Sassouni, Sontag, Mairzadeh, Gold)

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**The following dates were also set for Special Board meetings over the summer if needed:**

July 27 – Station  
August 24 – Parkville

**(c) BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

President Yan announced that committee assignments will be presented when they are finalized.

**OPEN TIME**

Trustee Hu inquired as to when in person meetings will resume. Peter Fishbein anticipates they may not resume until April but it all depends on the second surge, as well as, the vaccine.

Trustee Gold questioned the current library hours and if there has been thought into adding Sunday and/or evening hours for community members who cannot make it during the existing hours. Interim Director Trepp said he will look into why the library has not reopened on Sunday but that he is trying to be very cautious with adding hours and expanding services.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Chelsea Sassouni and seconded by Mimi Hu, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Barry Smith  
Secretary, Board of Trustees