

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 25, 2021, AND MARCH 10, 2022**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021**

The Annual Meeting/Election of the Great Neck Library Association was held on Monday, October 25, 2021, for the purpose of voting to fill two expiring seats on the Board of Trustees (Weihua Yan and Barry Smith) and two expiring seats on the Nominating Committee (Francine Ferrante Krupski and William Gens).

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Gold (Main Library) and Trustee Sontag (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 Hu (Main Library and Parkville Branch Library, via telephone) declared the polls closed at 10:00 p.m.

The Re-Organization portion of the Annual Meeting was recessed until Thursday, March 10, 2022.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022**

The Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees, was convened at 8:18 p.m. at the Parkville Branch of the Great Neck Library, 10 Campbell Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040. The agenda is attached.

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

Weihua Yan - President  
Liman Mimi Hu - Vice President  
Barry Smith - Secretary  
Kathleen Gold - Treasurer  
Scott Sontag – Assistant Treasurer

Also present: Denise Corcoran - Director  
Steven Kashkin - Business Manager  
Stephen Martir - Library Counsel

Also absent: Josephine Mairzadeh - Trustee  
Jenni Lurman - Trustee

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Yan called the meeting to order at 8:18 p.m.

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT**

President Yan welcomed all in attendance. He stated that there will be a brief meeting with one action item for the old board followed by a short intermission, at which time, the new board will take its place. President Yan reported that the library's longtime counsel Peter Fishbein passed away and sent condolences to his family and firm. He requested a moment of silence in Peter's memory. President

Yan announced that tonight's reorganization meeting is to select the board officers and will be run by Stephen Martir, Library Counsel. Although the meeting was originally scheduled for 7:00 p.m. it needed to be pushed back to 8:15 pm to accommodate Mr. Martir's attendance at Peter Fishbein's wake.

President Yan stated that he has been on the library board for the past four years, serving as president for the last two, and has made many great memories during that time. In the last four years, the world has changed significantly, with two of them spent fighting the coronavirus pandemic. Also, for three of the past four years, the library was without a permanent director. With that said, he is happy to welcome back Denise Corcoran as director. He is confident that, with her experience and dedication, she will be able to bring the Great Neck library system to the next level. President Yan announced that during his time on the board, the Station Branch renovation was completed, making a better space for the patrons. In addition, the library website was updated to include the addition of many new digital services, which has offered staff and patrons a way to remain connected during the pandemic.

President Yan thanked his fellow trustees for their continued service to the library. He noted that before joining the board if he was asked what it takes to be a good trustee, he would have answered that perhaps a lawyer, accountant, or a person with a technological background would be the best fit. Now after four years if he were asked the same question, his response would be completely different. To be a good trustee, it does not matter what your background is because the library is run by professionals. To be a good trustee you need to be a good listener and listen to the community, director, and, staff. The most important job of a trustee is to make good and right decisions which are sometimes tough, and not always popular. He hopes that the remaining trustees will continue this good work.

## **MINUTES**

**Upon motion by Trustee Gold, seconded by Trustee Hu, and after discussion, it was,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2020, Annual Meeting/Election and January 5, 2021, Annual Reorganization Meeting, as presented.

**VOTE:** Yes 5 (Yan, Hu, Smith, Gold, Sontag)

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORTS**

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

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

On behalf of the Board, Vice President Hu presented outgoing President Weihua Yan with a certificate of appreciation. 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.”

Respectfully submitted,

Liman Mimi Hu  
Vice President, Board of Trustees

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The new board reconvened at 8:32 p.m. at which time Stephen Martir, Library Counsel, welcomed new trustee Donald Panetta.

## **OPEN TIME**

- Bill Cutrone – Lakeville Estates Civic Association would like to place a box to collect medical supplies for Ukrainian people in the Parkville Branch.
- Emil Hakimi – Why have there been no board meetings for the past few months? Who has been handling the finances? Are there any lawsuits currently ongoing for the library? Stephen Martir, Library Counsel, responded that there are currently two open lawsuits.
- Rebecca Gilliar – NYS law requires the board to hold four meetings a year. Bylaws do not supersede state law.
- Vida – How is the president of the board selected?
- Betty Leung – What is the status of Parkville renovations?
- Jessica Somer – Currently only 10 kids are allowed for in-person children’s program. When are capacity limits expected to increase?

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

#### **President**

Scott Sontag nominated Mimi Hu. Donald Panetta nominated Barry Smith. *Mimi Hu received three votes. Barry Smith received two votes.*

**Upon motion by Trustee Sontag, seconded by Trustee Gold, it was,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library elect Mimi Hu as President of Board of Trustees for a one-year term ending January 2023.

**VOTE:** Yes - 3 (Hu, Sontag, Gold)

No – 2 (Smith, Panetta)

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **Vice President**

Mimi Hu nominated Josephine Mairzadeh. There were no other nominations.

**Upon motion by Trustee Hu, seconded by Trustee Sontag, it was,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library elect Josephine Mairzadeh as Vice President of Board of Trustees for a one-year term ending January 2023.

**VOTE:** Yes - 3 (Hu, Sontag, Gold)  
No – 2 (Smith, Panetta)

MOTION CARRIED

**Secretary**

Mimi Hu nominated Scott Sontag. There were no other nominations. *Scott Sontag was elected Secretary by a 3-2 vote.*

**Upon motion by Trustee Hu, seconded by Trustee Gold, it was,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library elect Scott Sontag as Secretary of Board of Trustees for a one-year term ending January 2023.

**VOTE:** Yes - 3 (Hu, Sontag, Gold)  
No – 2 (Smith, Panetta)

MOTION CARRIED

**Treasurer**

Scott Sontag nominated Kathleen Gold. Barry Smith nominated Donald Panetta. *Kathleen Gold received three votes. Donald Panetta received two votes.*

**Upon motion by Trustee Sontag, seconded by Trustee Hu, it was,**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library elect Kathleen Gold as Treasurer of Board of Trustees for a one-year term ending January 2023.

**VOTE:** Yes - 3 (Hu, Sontag, Gold)  
No – 2 (Smith, Panetta)

MOTION CARRIED

**(b) 2022/2023 BOARD MEETING DATES**

**Upon motion by Trustee Gold seconded by Trustee 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 2022/2023 [below].

2022

March 22

March 23 (Budget Workshop)

March 28 (Budget Workshop)  
April 7 (Budget Hearing & Adoption)  
April 19  
May 24  
June 21  
September 20  
October 18  
October 31 (Annual Meeting/Election 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Main & Parkville)  
November 15  
December 20

2023

January 3 – Annual Re-Organization Meeting  
January 17 – Board Meeting

**VOTE:** Yes 5 (Hu, Sontag, Gold, Smith, Panetta)  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

July 26  
August 23

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Trustee Hu and seconded by Trustee Gold, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Sontag  
Secretary, Board of Trustees