A special meeting of the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees with an executive session was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at the Main Library, 159 Bayview Avenue, Great Neck, NY 11023 [Agenda attached]

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Rory Lancman – President
Scott Sontag – Vice President
Kathleen Gold – Secretary
Mimi Hu – Treasurer
Josephine Mairzadeh – Assistant Treasurer
Barry Smith – Trustee

Also Present: Denise Corcoran – Director
Steven Kashkin – Business Manager
Stephen Martir – Bee Ready Law

CALL TO ORDER

President Lancman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Trustees Gold, Hu, Mairzadeh, and Smith were in attendance along with Library Director Denise Corcoran, Business Manager Steven Kashkin, and Library Counsel Stephen Martir.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PUBLISHED AGENDA

R. Gilliar – Access to executive session records

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Trustee Lancman, seconded by Trustee Hu, it was,
RESOLVED, that the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and trustee vacancy matters.

VOTE: Yes – 5 (Lancman, Gold, Hu, Mairzadeh, Smith)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Sontag joined the executive session at 5:44 p.m.

Upon motion by Trustee Lancman, seconded by Trustee Smith, it was,
RESOLVED, that the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees exit Executive Session.

VOTE: Yes – 6 (Lancman, Sontag, Gold, Hu, Mairzadeh, Smith)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
No action was taken in the executive session.

The board reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Accept Board of Trustee Resignation

Upon motion by Trustee Hu, seconded by Trustee Mairzadeh, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees accept the resignation of Donald Panetta from the Board of Trustees, effective October 17, 2023.

VOTE: Yes – 4 (Sontag, Gold, Hu, Mairzadeh)
No – 2 (Lancman, Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

2. Excuse Trustee Absences

Upon motion by Trustee Lancman, seconded by Trustee Hu, it was,

RESOLVED, to the extent that such absences are considered three consecutive meeting absences per the bylaws, the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees excuses the absences of Trustee Mairzadeh in July, August, and September, and accepts such excuse as satisfactory to the board.

VOTE: Yes – 5 (Lancman, Sontag, Gold, Hu, Mairzadeh)
No – 1 (Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

3. Amend Library Director's Contract

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

RESOLVED, that the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees approve the amended employment contract between the library director Denise Corcoran and the library, and direct the board president to immediately execute same.

VOTE: Yes – 4 (Sontag, Gold, Hu, Mairzadeh)
No – 2 (Lancman, Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Lancman said he is going to vote against the motion. He believes the contract does not appropriately balance the security the director needs and is entitled to in ensuring that the board is conducting proper oversight of the director’s conduct. Trustee Lancman thinks the director is doing a terrific job and hopes that she will stay for the five years that the contract is for. His vote should in no way be interpreted in anything less than complete confidence in the director, but the terms of the contract are not what he would like to see.

Trustee Smith stated that he thinks the continuity of a director is important but he will also be voting against it because he feels it goes against their fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers.
Trustee Hu would like to strike the aforementioned comments relating to the director’s contract in order to protect the library from legal liabilities.

Trustee Sontag added that Director Corcoran and her staff have done an amazing job. When he was growing up, the library had great facilities but when he started on the board a lot of those were lacking. When Director Corcoran arrived, she worked with the community members and has done wonderful things with the programming in the STEM lab and at all the branches. It is a blessing that she is here.

4. Authorize Contract Negotiations for Administrative Staff

Upon motion by Trustee Hu, seconded by Trustee Lancman, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees authorize the Library Director to enter into negotiations for the employment contracts of the administrative staff. All negotiations are subject to ratification by the board.

VOTE: Yes – 6 (Lancman, Sontag, Gold, Hu, Mairzadeh, Smith)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Lancman and seconded by Trustee Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gold
Secretary, Board of Trustees