

Patterson Library Board Meeting Visit (in person)
Tuesday 15 March 2022

Peter Carey
Priscilla Goldfarb

The director and board extended a warm welcome.

The meeting was well attended. There was a printed board packet containing the agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, director's report and financial report that contributed to a focused and productive meeting, guided by the board president. The board members and director interacted easily and respectfully.

Board members appeared well informed and engaged in discussions, which included but were not limited to their January Blue Sky planning meeting, staff CPR/AED training, upcoming participation in Putnam County's Library Week event on 5 April, MHLS's Passport program, use of social media to create awareness and engage and inform the community, pursuit of grant seeking and other fundraising and the popularity of their newly instituted notary services. Of particular note were:

- a. the board's committee structure, which, in addition to the Budget and Finance, Bylaws and Policy, Nominating, and Personnel also includes Fundraising, Government Outreach, Social Media and Ad Hoc Expansion of Services. Each committee chair was well prepared and offered reports that engaged the board in substantive conversation;
- b. advocacy relationship building that includes inviting legislators to read stories at the library;
- c. focus on developing social media skills and practices to expand awareness and extend outreach

Peter expressed MHLS's appreciation for Patterson's advocacy efforts and for Director Stephanie Harrison's outstanding service as 2022 chair of the Central Library/Collection Development Advisory Committee of the Directors Association. Priscilla emphasized that our three MHLS reps from Putnam are there to represent Patterson and are available at all times. She encouraged the library to continue their relationship building and advocacy efforts with local legislators. She also highlighted MHLS's Spring trustee education programs and provided the link for online info to be included in the minutes of the board meeting. Board members expressed interest in continuing their trustee education. They asked whether, when the regulations go into effect in 2023, they will have specified courses or be able to choose from a menu and also whether the courses would be in person or online. Peter and Priscilla responded that Rebekkah has been named to the NYS Division of Library Development's working group to develop the guidance for the implementation of the new Trustee Education Requirement and that information will be forthcoming.