



# Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA  
Clerk

DAVID H. KNAPP  
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI  
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York  
13202 Phone: 315.435.2070 • Fax: 315.435.8434 • [www.ongov.net/legislature](http://www.ongov.net/legislature)

## COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES – March 23, 2021 VIRTUAL DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Tassone, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Ervin

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman Knapp, Mr. Kinne, Dr. Chase, Ms. McNamara, Mr. Frantzis, Ms. Lesniak, Mrs. Vilardi, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Wixson, Ms. Primo, Ms. Wisiewski, Ms. Travis, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Wildrick, Mr. Carter, Mr. Paro, Ms. Velasco, Mr. Zabriskie

Chair Cody called the meeting to order at 10:29 a.m. *A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Mrs. Ervin, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### 1. **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION:** Brian Kelley, Commissioner **a. Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to Accept Donated Item**

- The Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo are donating a 2012 Toyota Rav4 to the County for its use
- This vehicle would be instrumental in being able to transport animals, go back and forth to Cornell for blood work, and get food and every day running
- Right now at the Zoo they only have 3 vehicles used for maintenance, plowing, and work around the park; Zoo is borrowing a van from Beaver Lake, which takes one of their vehicles out of use
- Friends have two vehicles and only use one, so they would like to donate one; huge benefit

Chair Cody:

- Friends come through again; Zoo to you program will have another vehicle they can use
- Virtual right now, hopefully will be back up and running sometime in the future

Mr. Kelly said it is virtual right now, it is a great program, and they only need one vehicle even in the highest demand.

Mrs. Ervin asked if there is a downside, and Mr. Kelly responded no. Anytime we can get a vehicle added to our fleet is great, and it has only 32,000 miles on it.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Mrs. Tassone, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

### 2. **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:** Archie Wixson, Commissioner **a. Amending the 2021 County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from New York State's Multi Modal Program for Loop the Lake Trail Solar Lighting**

- Another grant received in order to continue solar lighting along the West Shore Trail of Loop The Lake; have done three here so far; DOT grant used for solar lighting extension
- Will continue length of solar lighting near exit 7, outside pump station, where DEC launch lighting ended; continue ¾

mile or so towards Harbor Brook; an additional mile of trail, same lighting, same look

- Would like to accept this and continue another  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile

Chair Cody asked where it is. Mr. Wixson:

- If you get off exit 7 on 690 towards Solvay, instead of going to Amphitheater, go towards NYS DEC launch, there's a building there, continue on towards Harbor Brook, towards the bridge Honeywell put in

Ms. Primo commented that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> grant received through Assemblyman Magnarelli for lights on these trails. Chair Cody thanked Assemblyman Magnarelli.

***A motion was made by Mrs. Ervin, seconded by Ms. Kuhn, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

### **3. ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: Christian Zabriskie, Director**

#### **a. INFORMATIONAL: Update on city libraries**

- Thank you for the support to the libraries; libraries are open and doing well; opened doors for appointments on the 15th of February
- People are coming in; no problems wearing masks, people are behaving and doing well; getting good service
- Able to start allowing people to come in on first come first serve basis; would like an appointment, but will do walk in
- Take name and phone number for contract tracing; information is destroyed three weeks later for privacy
- Getting great support from county; Mr. Donnelly and Ms. Rooney have been great
- Member libraries are opened up as well

Chair Cody said great news. People can make an appointment, but can also show up and come in if they are not at capacity.

Mr. Zabriskie said they will be changing the marketing a little bit to make it a little clearer. He wanted to do a soft opening to make sure they did not get swamped. It is going smoothly, so he thinks they can market that the libraries are here and available.

Chair Cody asked if most of the libraries are open and if some are on alternate days. Mr. Zabriskie:

- Yes, due to some furloughs; fortunately furloughs not layoffs; had to condense staff; covering two different branches at once to make a pair
- White Branch & Paine Branch paired – Monday, Wednesday, Friday staff is at White Branch; Tuesday and Thursday at Paine Branch
- Petit and Soule are a pair; Beauchamp and Betts; Hazard and Mundy; Central is open every day of the week
- Zero unplanned closures throughout this process due to lack of staff or COVID exposures
- Had furloughed staff coming back in, have been working with the county
- COVID exposures have been rock bottom, two staff had COVID at different times in different departments; no cross contamination, recovered quickly

Chair Cody said it is a credit to you and your staff for taking all the precautionary measures.

Ms. Kuhn asked where they stand with broadening internet ability outside the libraries for folks not getting in. Is this in place yet? Mr. Zabriskie:

- No, not in place yet; currently using federal money from the CARES ACT; dispersed from the state library
- Local vendor lined up; as soon as money is cleared, will be able to go forward on it

Ms. Kuhn asked where they stand on the mobile library. Mr. Zabriskie:

- Focus has been on getting libraries open safely; did some local research, found one piece on how modern bookmobiles work; found map of coverage of libraries across the county; county has excellent coverage

Mrs. Ervin asked if the central library will be open as well. Mr. Zabriskie:

- Yes, open Monday – Friday, 10-4 p.m.
- Homeless population is coming back; nice to see some regulars; when the weather was cold, able to provide warmth and shelter
- Currently providing care and internet access right now

Mrs. Ervin stated that she does not think people really know the library is open. There was a complaint that they were thinking libraries were not open, so marketing is really needed at this point. Mr. Zabriskie agreed. Vaccines are out there; getting closer to normalcy.

Mrs. Ervin asked if all the employees will be back on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Zabriskie:

- Full time employees are back on 3/31 or 4/1; part time employees are a process; not all positions will be available
- Did have a lot of retirements; actively getting staff back and extending hours

Mr. Zabriskie replied to Chair Cody that the libraries are ready to be a part of the vaccine distribution process and to be part of the solution. He said they were a testing site at Mundy, and it went well. Mr. Donnelly added that the Health Department is looking at those locations and hopes to have libraries receive the vaccines. Chair Cody thanked Mr. Donnelly, as it would be convenient for some people not wanting to go far from home and to a familiar place.

Mr. Zabriskie answered Mr. Bush that right now they are targeted on Syracuse Libraries, they are doing temperature checks and everyone is on board.

Chair Cody said she would like to visit and any committee members who want to come with her to see how the central library is doing and what precautions they are taking.

Mr. Zabriskie said he appreciates the support.

***A motion was made by Mr. Bush, seconded by Mrs. Ervin to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature