

**FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE BOROUGH OF MADISON
THURSDAY, March 11, 2021**

7:00 PM

Present: Thomas Binting, President, David Luber, James Schessler, Louise Easton, Mayor Robert Conley, Rachel K. Barry, Kate Bartley, Karen Bessin, School Representative, and Marilyn Favreau, Library Director

Guests: Margie Ticknor, Adult Services Librarian; Pam Hogan, Chair of the Friends of the Madison Public Library (FMPL); and R. Dani, a member of the public

Absent: Thomas Haralampoudis and Mary Fevola, Finance and Administration Manager

Mr. Binting called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Ms. Easton announced that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA Title 10 Chapter 4 sections 6-10, and in consideration of Executive Order No. 103, issued by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2020, declaring a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency in the State of New Jersey, and Executive Order 104, ordering all public libraries to close, and Senate Bill 2294, adopted into law which allows public bodies to conduct meetings and provide notice by electronic means during periods of such emergency, the Madison Public Library notified the public that the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees scheduled for March 11, 2021 in the library's Chase Auditorium will be held electronically only and will begin at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the February 11, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board were presented for consent and accepted as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Luber presented the Treasurer's Report.

The March 2021 Bill List was reviewed.

Upon motion of Mr. Schessler and seconded by Ms. Easton the Board unanimously

“Resolved to approve the revised March Bill List in the amount of \$26,027.45”

The Library's financial reports for the period ended February 28, 2021 were reviewed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Favreau reviewed her monthly report. In person browsing and computer use by appointment resumed on March 2nd. There is no evidence of an increase in appointment usage compared to last fall as result, walk-ins have been permitted inside the building since capacity limits are not being breached.

Coinciding with opening the building to the public, courtyard browsing has been extended to match the hours the library is open to the public. Courtyard Browsing continues to be very popular as are crafts kits which have been increased to twice per month. Outdoor programming is anticipated to begin in late spring.

The Construction Bond OPRA request confirmed the library's application was reviewed by 2 individuals and the application did not get past the first round of reviews. The State Library put emphasis on resiliency and community support. The second round of grant application is looming and will require deciding our focus, obtaining another Borough resolution, contacting the architect and preparing the new grant.

Staff is beginning to plan for Summer Reading. Plans currently are for in person outdoors with a backup plan to go virtual should the pandemic or weather dictate.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Mr. Binting presented the Buildings and Grounds report for the prior two months. Mrs. Favreau complimented Mr. Heesemann for shoveling the walkways and supplementing the work done by DPW to clear additional parking spots in the lots and handicapped parking with his own plow.

PERSONNEL

Nothing to report.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mr. Lubber reviewed the Technology Report advising work began on the website redesign. Ms. Barry drafted a patron survey and met with the supervisors, Daniel Nazarko, Adult Services Librarian and Dana Skwirut, Youth Services Librarian for a demo of the EBSCO platform which was impressive. Ms. Barry reported EBSCO works with many different libraries so their platform is at the forefront of library needs, easy to use by local staff, offers continual updates, flexibility and is reasonably priced. The platform also offers the ability to register for programs which could present future savings for the library. Research will continue and the Technology Committee will meet to review.

Mr. Lubber reported Mr. Daniher spoke to Optimum, the backup provider for our public WiFi, about upgrading their modem and IP router. Optimum will be on site March 12th to perform the work.

Mr. Binting questioned the status of the Eagle Scout project. Mrs. Favreau mentioned problems with the outlets are being encountered.

SCHOOLS AND TEENS

Ms. Bessin reported school activities are unchanged from last month's meeting except for curriculum support which is completed. Ms. Bessin promoted library access to books to students and parents through the PTO at a recent school event. The library should expect an increase in biography requests soon as every child in at least one or two grades of the elementary schools will need three paper biographies on a person of their choice.

In terms of the grant application and resiliency, Mr. Binting mentioned the small meeting rooms planned for the renovation project would be helpful for students as schools close after classes.

Ms. Bessin mentioned schools are discussing opening more fully. Extending the day in elementary schools to later in the day and bringing middle and high school students back every day rather than every other day. Once the transition takes place students will be looking to library to go back to pre-COVID scenario usage including meeting in the library with tutors. Discussion was held regarding social distancing in the library and using the outdoor space to accommodate pairs working together.

FMPL

Pam Hogan welcomed Ms. Barry as the FMPL liaison to the Board of Trustees. The spring Minicourse is going strong with Dr. Butts. The next Zoom Minicourse sign up is available on the FMPL website.

The 2020 fundraising Challenge and Appeal continues to go strong with over \$45,000 donated exceeding their goal. FMPL will apply for a \$1500 Rotary grant to support museum passes. FMPL applied for GuideStar recognition and reached the platinum level for non-profit organizations providing donors with reassurance of transparency, current information and the positive work of FMPL.

MUF/MAIN

Mrs. Favreau reported the Summit Library opened by appointment, the New Providence library will soon be opening by appointment and the Berkeley Heights library remains closed due to the transition of their move to a new building.

MAIN now has 49 members, up from 38 libraries. Interlibrary loan (ILL) has seen a remarkable increase in traffic mostly due to the addition of the Hunterdon County library. The current space in the back office needs to be reconfigured for the increase. Mr. Luber questioned the use of MAIN's technology support by all in the consortium. Mrs. Favreau advised the County libraries do not use MAIN's services for technology support.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

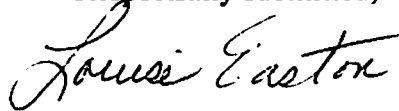
Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Easton".

Louise Easton
Secretary