

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE BOROUGH OF MADISON
THURSDAY, February 15, 2024
7:30 PM

Present: Thomas Binting, President, David Luber (ZOOM), Kate Bartley, JoAnne McCarthy, Joseph Riopel, Mary Beth Hansbury, Marilyn Favreau, Library Director and Mary Fevola, Finance and Administration Manager

Absent: Maureen Byrne, Christopher Paradiso and Christine Boyle

Guests: Corinne Bowen, Supervisor Circulation and ILL

Mr. Binting called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Ms. McCarthy announced in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act," proper notice of this meeting and all Library Board meetings for the year 2024 was made. Notice was posted on February 4, 2024 notifying the public of the change in the meeting date of the Library Board of Trustees rescheduled for February 15, 2024. Meeting will be held in person in the temporary staff trailer in the Library's parking lot beginning at 7:30 pm with the option of electronic participation using the published Zoom link.

The minutes of the January 11, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board were presented for consent. There being no corrections, Ms. McCarthy motioned for approval; Mr. Riopel seconded. The Board unanimously accepted the minutes as distributed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Binting circulated copies of a meeting notice from the New Jersey Library Trustees Association offering a March 23rd Zoom training for new and existing trustees.

The Library's 2024 Budget Presentation is being made to the Borough Council the evening of Monday, February 26th.

Mr. Binting and Mrs. Favreau along with the architect and construction representative toured the Library today. The ceilings are being installed, the individual study rooms are framed and the floors are ready for carpeting. Before and after demolition photos of construction will soon be posted on the Library's website. The second grant payment requisition to the State Library will be submitted no later than early next week.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Luber presented the Treasurer's Report, during which he reviewed the February 2024 Bill List and payments made under Resolution 2023-12 which permits construction related payments to be made before Board meetings followed by Board approval.

After discussion, upon motion of Ms. Bartley and seconded by Ms. Hansbury, the Board unanimously

"Resolved to approve the February Bill List in the amount of \$46,598.69 and \$630,019.49 under Resolution 2023-12"

Mr. Luber then reviewed the Library's financial reports ending January 31, 2024 including payments associated with grant and non-grant construction expenses. The contribution of \$500,000 from Madison Public Library, Inc. to pay construction costs was noted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Favreau reviewed her monthly report. Museum Passes, Read-Alongs, Discovery Collection and digital circulation continue to see strong usage. Non-digital circulation and foot traffic are down 50% which makes sense since our physical location is in a smaller space. Adult and Youth Services Programs remain popular and are well attended. The successful adult crafts program has added visits to Sunrise Living and is being well received by those residents. In addition to the Youth Services Department's programs and crafts, a new Story Walk is being displayed in town from February 10-25th. Pages from "Love, Z" by Jessie Sima, appear at various local establishments; walking details are on the Library's website.

Melanie Edwards, Technical Services Supervisor, retired effective January 31, 2024. Her successor will be discussed under the Personnel Committee.

The Big Read is a grant program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. One selection is made from a list of approved titles so an entire community reads the same book and participates in related activities such as reading groups. The Museum of Early Trades and Crafts (METC) applied for this grant and invited the Library and other community organizations such as Drew University and The Shakespeare Theater to participate in implementing the program if the grant is awarded. "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel is the title selected by the METC.

Mrs. Favreau added that the construction meeting held earlier today also included review of anticipated and unanticipated fire alarm/fire system work. Also, final decisions regarding furniture, particularly service desks, will need to be made soon.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Board was directed to the previously distributed Building and Grounds Reports for December 2023 and January 2024. Mr. Heesemann, Maintenance Supervisor, was complimented on his working relationship with the contractors and the unexpected number of questions and time he has devoted to contractor questions.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ms. Bartley reported interviews for a new hire to replace Melanie Edwards took place and a candidate was identified. Board approval was requested.

Upon motion of Mr. Riopel and seconded by Ms. McCarthy, the Board unanimously

“Resolved to approve the hire of Elissa DeRose as Technical Services Supervisor Full time, effective February 19, with Part time hours from February 12 to February 18, 2024”

POLICY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

SCHOOLS AND TEENS

Nothing to report.

FMPL

Ms. McCarthy reminded the Board the Annual Gala for honoree, Sylvia Luber will be held on May 4, 2024 at Grace Episcopal Church. The Board praised the contributions of Mrs. Luber as past FMPL President and the countless hours she continues to devote to the Minicourses.

MUF/Main Library Alliance (Main)

Nothing to report for MUF.

Mrs. Favreau reported Raritan Public Library was added to Main this week, and in May the Mountainside Library will be added.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

The meeting was adjourned 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


JoAnne McCarthy
Secretary