

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE BOROUGH OF MADISON
THURSDAY, March 14, 2024
7:30 PM

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

Guests: Corinne Bowen, Supervisor Circulation and ILL

Mr. Binting called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 March 8, 2024 notifying the public the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees for March 14, 2024 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 February 15, 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 mentioned the construction project is moving along and Mrs. Favreau will provide details in her report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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

"Resolved to approve the March Bill List in the amount of \$32,604.17 and payments made to the Borough of Madison since the last meeting as listed under Resolution 2023-12"

Mr. Luber then reviewed the Library's financial reports ending February 29, 2024.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Favreau reviewed her monthly report. February saw strong circulation of magazines, video games and Museum Passes and digital circulation reached an all-time high. Non-digital circulation and foot traffic continue to report 50% reduction. Museum Passes will begin to be promoted on Instagram. Attendance at Adult Services' Programs remains high and staff continued outreach to Sunrise and Pine Acres.

Elissa DeRose has made constructive contributions in Technical Services since joining about a month ago. Lori Matheiss of Technical Services will be partnering with NJ Animal Rescue at Sunrise to make Dog beds and continues to expand Adult Crafts into the community. YS program attendance is increasing. In preparation for return to programs in the library, staff have begun to inventory program supplies on hand and in storage.

Christine Boyle exited the meeting.

Mrs. Favreau provided a general review of the status of the construction project. The Borough Council presentation went very well. The Council was impressed with the progress and photos of construction work. Staff is advising the public the Library is planning to open no later than early fall. Following the construction phase, interior work to provide services to the public will be underway. Updates will continue to be posted to the Library's website.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Board was directed to the previously distributed Building and Grounds Report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ms. Bartley reported Sue Ellen LaBelle, a long time part time employee, resigned effective March 8, 2024.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Committee continues their reviews. Nothing new to report.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mr. Luber advised the Committee met to review Robert Daniher's, Library IT Manager, proposal to purchase 7 computers in 2024, 4 less than originally planned, for under \$5000, purchased through Main. Maple Rock Communications was hired to tie ceiling cable wires and was able to repurpose several cables to be used in the reconfigured space which will result in a savings of about \$20,000 to the library. Mr. Daniher's detailed report for reentry into the library was reviewed. The Board complimented Mr. Daniher's strategic long range technology planning, reentry into the library and continued efforts during the construction.

SCHOOLS AND TEENS

Mr. Paradiso thanked Dana Skwirut and Jayde Valosin of the Library's Youth Services Department for attending and signing up students for library cards at Family Reading Nights. Mr. Paradiso recommended this event collaboration continue annually because there is student interaction as opposed to Back to School Night when only parents attend. Library staff also helped with circulating physical books from a visiting author. The Battle of the Books competition is kicking off with students requesting audio books of the titles. Mr. Paradiso reached out to Ms. Skwirut and Ms. Valosin to investigate if Hoopla and Libby have the titles and will allow multiple access to the audio books. Also the new Superintendent, Danielle Shanley, began this month.

Friends of the Madison Public Library (FMPL)

Ms. McCarthy advised FMPL voted to pay the first quarterly \$10,000 gift to the library this month as part of their \$40,000 annual commitment. The Annual Appeal which is scheduled to end at the end of March has been very successful. A fundraiser for families with younger children is being discussed. The Board was also reminded of the Annual Gala for honoree, Sylvia Lubert to be held on May 4, 2024 at Grace Episcopal Church.

MUF/Main Library Alliance (Main)

Nothing to report for MUF.

Mrs. Favreau confirmed Raritan Public Library is fully on board and participating in Main. Mountainside Library will be added soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

The meeting was adjourned 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



JoAnne McCarthy
Secretary