

Eisner Memorial Library 84 West Front Street Red Bank, NJ 07701

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Board Meeting of the Trustees Meeting Minutes: Meeting Date: July 28, 2022 ~ Time: 6:30pm

Location: Main Floor Library

- I. Call to Order: 6:35pm
- II. Open Public Meetings Act: Let the minutes reflect that, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting has been provided by notifying via email the Asbury Park Press, the Two River Times and redbankgreen and by filing the same with the Borough Clerk on July 13, 2022.
- III. Roll Call: Sara Siegler, Ann Goldman, Ann Ciabattoni, Stephen Hecht. Sue Viscomi, Jared Ramage, Kathy Horgan, Jim Whyte. Absent: Robyn Gedrich, Mayor Menna. Staff Attendance: Eleni Glykis and Candyce Valor.
- IV. Approve Board Meeting Minutes:
 - A. Approve June 16, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes: Ann Ciabattoni Motion, Stephen Hecht 2nd. Absent: Robyn Gedrich, Mayor Menna. All in favor. None opposed.
- V. Treasurer's Report
 - B. **Bill List – Action Item: \$49,126.46:** Sara Siegler Motion, Jared Ramage 2nd. Absent: Robyn Gedrich, Mayor Menna. All in favor. None opposed.
- VI. Director's Report:

CURRENT PROJECTS

IMLS: Chromebooks are now in circulation. The staff is working on a marketing campaign, and we reviewed a breakdown of procedures and department responsibilities during the last staff meeting. This two-year grant's second component is acquiring hybrid programming equipment.

Eisner Opportunity Lab: The IC3 class ends on Thursday, July 21. This course had a lot of interest, but most students found it too intensive. Through August, one-on-one tutoring and social media and devices workshops are available. Workshops include Learn LinkedIn on August 10 and iPad and iPhone Basics on August 22. While focusing on workforce development and digital literacy, the lab would also provide growth for local nonprofits and small businesses, freelancer support, and other STEAM educational opportunities for the Great Red Bank area. In addition, the staff met with Human Relations Advisory Committee chair, Pat Pinto, to discuss partnering with the RBBA to promote events and provide training opportunities to local employees. Finally, we are asking to use monies from the Hackett Bequest to cover the cost of salaries. This ask will cover wages before the award of LSTA 2022 funds. Additional grants we are looking at include the National Institutes of Health as well as private Foundations to cover the cost of salaries into 2023.

ARPA: DPW installed the four solar charging stations at the benches by bulkhead. We are preparing the iPads for circulation. YA Furniture, Playaway Launchpads, and outdoor furniture have all been ordered and are awaiting delivery. Meanwhile, we have received a partial delivery of YA Furniture Purchase and iMacs. We are also working out how to pay for the second set of umbrellas. Our New Zealand-based vendor can no longer accept checks as legal tender; acceptable forms of payment are wire transfers or credit cards. We are waiting to hear from their financial department about alternative payment options.

Site Assessment: A site visit was conducted on July 8 at the Library by Cliff Keen, Edward Herrman of T & M

Associates, and Richard Alderiso of Di Group Architecture. They toured the building and grounds and will soon provide a proposal for a feasibility study to prioritize Capital Improvement projects for the Library.

Exterior Painting: We've contacted our selected vendor for the exterior painting. After a recommendation from the Borough's Engineering team, it is better to paint the exterior first, then cap the windows and repair the chimney. We've requested painting a 10'X10' sample area to ensure we're in love with the primary and accent color choices.

NJCBG: We are happy to announce that a public bid for this project was advertised on July 5th, with an open bid on July 26th. We are hoping construction will start in September.

Building Plumbing Issues: On June 24, the Library had to close due to plumbing issues with the lower-level restrooms temporarily. The injector pumps that move sewage out of the building failed, causing the lower level restrooms to become obsolete and a sewage smell to take over the building. Candyce and I sent staff home while the plumbers worked on the issue. The plumbers were able to make the toilets flushable. However, there was still a strange sound coming from the mechanical room. DPW Water Department staff rebuilt one of the injector pumps. This week, plumbers repaired an injector valve on the pump. So far, there have not been any other plumbing-related issues.

96-98 West Front Street: I reached out to the Borough Administrator about the construction that has yet to begin on the property next door. The developer is currently negotiating a construction easement with the Borough. Once that is granted, construction will begin. .

SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

Drag Queen Story Hour: Despite the hostile rhetoric received via social media and phone calls, both events were incredibly successful and well enjoyed by the families who attended. It was evident that there was a large amount of support during both events, with the second hosting drawing a slightly larger crowd. Our performer did receive a terrorist threat, which caused us to heighten our security measures. We are very grateful to the Red Bank Police officers who remained present during the entirety of both programs and ensured that families felt safe upon entering, participating, and leaving the event. Wednesday morning's event drew more dissenters than Monday evening's; five stood outside the building with signs, heckling incoming patrons and preaching the Bible. Two male protesters walked to participate in the event, with one kneeling to pray during the middle of the Program. RB Police officers remained vigilant. Luckily neither event had a sizeable hateful crowd materialize, despite calls for a massive protest in some far-right Facebook groups. Monday night's event drew a larger supportive crowd and a smaller group of protestors. A wall of local activists stood on our porch with their signs reading "Hate is a Drag" and "Love is love," and the entirety of the local press was also in attendance.

It is also important to note that most complaints were from individuals from out-of-state or non-Red Bank residents.

Thank the Red Bank Police Department again for their phenomenal work with crowd control. Thanks also to Ann Ciabbattoni and Linda Schwabenbauer, who volunteered their time to work the event; Councilwomen Kathy Horgan and Kate Triggiano, who were also in attendance; and the staff, who dealt with an influx of

harassing patron behavior over the phone. Thank you to the Red Bank community at large, which supported the Library both online and in person.

Drag Queen Story Hour tremendously boosted our social media stats, and the Month of June showed a significant increase across all platforms – proving that there's no bad press. We saw dramatic increases in page visits, likes, and interactions.

NJSL+ Literacy Partners Celebration: The State Library will host its celebration of the NJSL + Partners Program at the Red Bank Public Library. We are working with the state library on arrangements for the 60-plus participant event. The event will take place on September 30 at 11 am and will also provide an opportunity to showcase RBPL as a Hub.

Pride in the Park: The library again attended Pride in the Park. The Library had over 300 visitors stop by our kiosk, where residents took several pins, bookmarks, and other Pride swag. During the event, we also networked with local agencies, including Project REAL in Asbury Park and American Trans Resource Hub.

Returning to In-Person Programming: Most of the Library's programming has returned to an in-person model, and we are adding additional programs to our roster. This July, Chair Yoga for Seniors was introduced and is now held in the meeting room on the Second and Fourth Thursday of the Month. We are also looking to add a Lunch and Learn Financial Literacy program. We are hoping to increase our programming in the Fall as we look to add three nights to our existing open hours.

Town Wide Yard Sale: Despite previously deciding to host the Town Wide Yard Sale biannually, The Red Bank Public Library is tentatively looking to host a Town-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, September 10. Once again, registration will be \$10, allowing residents to list their sales on our online and print versions of the map. This year we are also considering allowing residents who do not have a yard the ability to bring a table to our front yard.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BOROUGH

Building and Grounds: Interim BA Chief Darren McConnel reached out to confirm the payment of several outstanding invoices from the elevator repair and emergency plumbing issues. He is also awaiting a report on the scope of work for the chimney repair. The Borough website now also correctly links to the Library website.

Parks and Recreation: The Red Bank Public Library welcomed Red Bank Summer Camps groups to the Library for a tour and a Story Hour. They also extended an offer to us to participate in the Broadwalk events during August. We also provided the Parks and Recreation Department with a copy of Encanto for the first Summer Outdoor Movie Event. We're looking forward to working more with Parks and Recreation in the coming year.

Community Events: The Library is working to participate in several community events this month. Events include National Night Out on the 2nd, numerous Broadwalk events on the 5th, 12th, and 16th, the 47th Annual Clearwater Festival at Riverside Gardens on the 6th, and Lunchbreak's Annual Picnic/Wellness Fair on the 8th of the month. As the number of community events is expanding, we are looking at reworking our current programming budget to split outreach events such as these to ensure we maintain a presence.

RBPL In the Press: The local press provided coverage of Drag Queen Story Hour, including [two articles](#) in [Red Bank Green](#), [Tap Into](#), and [The Two River Times](#). Additionally, the event was covered by a local Antifa blog,

Jersey Counter Info.

VII. President's Report: None

VIII. Committee Report:

- A. Personnel: Meeting held on 7/26/2022 No action to be taken by the Board at this time.
- B. Buildings and Grounds: No meeting.
- C. Finance: Meeting held on 7/28/2022 discussion regarding the Library capital account and movement of funds by the Borough of CFO. Further investigation will be conducted.
- D. Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee: No meeting.
- E. Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee: No meeting.

IX. Foundation Report: The Foundation is starting their preliminary work on the annual appeal for November mailing.

X. Old Business: None

XI. New Business:

- A. Resolution 22-14: Adopting FY 2022 Salaries Permanent Part Time Staff: Sara Siegler Motion, Jared Ramage 2nd. Absent: Robyn Gedrich, Mayor Menna. All in favor. None opposed.
- B. Resolution 22-15: Hackett Bequest Allocation: The Hackett Bequest Allocation will be used to cover the Eisner Opportunity Lab Salaries while we await notification of the award from the LTSA 2022 Grant. Sue Viscomi Motion, Sara Siegler 2nd. Absent: Robyn Gedrich, Mayor Menna. All in favor. None opposed.
- C. Resolution 22-16: Petty Cash Fund Increase: The petty fund cash increase request is to cover the daily purchase of newspapers, which comes with a six-day-a-week charge of \$6.50. Before the pandemic, we were having an issue with our delivery service and ultimately canceled delivery during the pandemic. As we have cut back on the number of papers we are receiving, purchasing them directly from local vendors allows us to guarantee copies in house without worrying about theft damage or incorrect delivery. Jim Whyte Motion, Sue Viscomi 2nd. Absent: Robyn Gedrich, Mayor Menna. All in favor. None opposed.

XII. Public Portion: None

XIII. Adjournment: 7:08pm Jared Ramage Motion, Sue Viscomi 2nd. Absent: Robyn Gedrich, Mayor Menna. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candyce Valor