

**The Livingston Public Library
Minutes - Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2017**

Approved as amended:
June 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Co-President Larry Bergmann. Those in attendance were Co-President Peggy Slatkin, Trustees Iris Leopold, Charles Tahaney, Cynthia Waller Vallario, Mayor Shawn Klein, Library Director Amy Babcock Landry, and Assistant Director Amy Hyfler; Geraldine DiPopolo served as recorder.

Absent: Barbara Bye, Nora Lichtenstein, Judi Nudelman

Correction to the minutes: Friends of the Library Report (page 4): The *Take-a-Chance* Raffle took place on April 27th; not April 28th as stated in the minutes of the April 18th meeting.

VOTE

A motion to approve of the minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting as corrected was made by Peggy Slatkin; seconded by Cynthia Waller Vallario and duly passed.

Good and Welfare: Iris Leopold shared that her grandson is graduating from Washington University. He plans to work at the medical lab at NYU for one year before attending medical school.

Cynthia Waller Vallario is working on reuniting the 25 and 50 year graduates from her high school to march with the 2017 graduating class. Cynthia also shared that she is the honorary chairwoman for an event at S. Barnabas.

Director's Report: *(attached)*

Larry Bergmann asked about the status of registration for Senior Happenings. Registration is online with Livingston residents taking priority. Registration is also being taken by telephone. The discussion continued about prior issues with overcrowding.

Iris Leopold thanked Amy Babcock Landry for the Leadership Academy Report. Iris also complimented the well-written Library of Things Report.

Assistant Director's Report & Department Reports & ESL Report *(attached)*

Amy Hyfler reported there were no major leaks with the heavy rainstorm. Amy also stated the Hot Spot she borrowed from the library worked very well in Europe.

Department Reports

Trustees: Co-Presidents Peggy Slatkin and Larry Bergmann

Peggy Slatkin mentioned that there was an additional fee of \$6.00 for the use of the museum passes for the special Matisse and His Friends show at the Montclair Art Museum. Amy Hyfler added that it had been added to the pass during this exhibition. Peggy Slatkin mentioned a Facebook post about two disabled people so happy to visit the Library. Peggy also attended a 3-D printer presentation at the Montclair Library. A 3-D printer will be addressed in future planning.

Larry Bergmann announced that Judi Nudelman's retirement party will on Tuesday, June 13th in the program room. The time for the party has not yet been finalized. Amy Babcock Landry asked for names of people that should be invited.

Larry attended a BCCLS meeting and gave an update regarding the sanctions brought against the Rochelle Park Public Library for non-compliance. At a court hearing, the judge reversed the injunction. The BCCLS Board will vote to remove the Rochelle Park Public Library from the consortium.

There was a brief discussion about the Arts Council Gala. Many members of the community were in attendance at the gala even though Cynthia added that the tickets and items for sale were expensive.

Committee Reports

Finance/Budget Committee Chair: Barbara Bye was absent. There was no report.

Personnel Committee Chair Iris Leopold is scheduling a meeting to review the past contract and plans to have the new contract finalized by the next meeting.

Policy Committee Chair Cynthia Waller Vallario has a meeting date set for the end of the month. Amy Babcock Landry suggested meeting with Cynthia prior to the meeting.

Friends of the Library Report: Barbara Bye: In Barbara Bye's absence, Amy Hyfler reported that the *Spring Bling* brought in \$1,000.00. The raffle took in over \$5,000.00. There was a brief discussion on what could be done with the jewelry that was not sold. Scheduling another sale was discussed as a possibility.

Building and Grounds Chair Charles Tahaney reported that specifications for the railing, stairs and roof projects are close to being finalized. The projects will go to bid in mid-June.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Klein reported that interviews for the town manager position are scheduled to begin in a couple of weeks. Also reported was the needed upgrading of the township pools and the possible downsizing to one pool. There will be several discussions with the town council before a final decision is made. Cynthia Waller Vallario asked about the prior renovations in recent years. These repairs were only band aids to the repairs needed.

There was a brief discussion on the issue of Livingston becoming a fair and welcoming community. Mayor Klein discussed views from both sides, and he does not believe this is a major problem in Livingston.

The construction next to St. Barnabas Medical Center is going to be a senior care center.

Board of Education Report: Nora Lichtenstein There was no report.

Comments/Questions from the audience pertaining to the agenda: There was no one in attendance from the public.

Old Business

1. Union Negotiations Update (Closed Session if needed): A closed session was not needed.
2. Unlock Student Potential: Resolution re: School Media Specialists

VOTE

The following resolution was passed with a majority approval:

A Resolution in Support of the Need for Highly Effective School Library Media Programs in New Jersey

The Livingston Public Library Board of Trustees recognizes the need for highly effective school library media programs in every school, staffed with certified school library media specialists, instructing students in a standards-based information Literacy curriculum (which includes digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy).

WHEREAS: New Jersey's College and University Librarians in their statement, *The Value and Importance of Highly Effective School Library Programs*, acknowledged many college freshmen are poorly prepared to conduct college-level research, requiring professors and librarians to spend more time than they should on basic skills. They live with this cause and effect, frustrated in knowing that many of these students could hit the college ground running with proper training beforehand; and

WHEREAS: Business leaders see a significant deficiency among recently hired high school graduates in their ability to solve problems and apply the critical-thinking skills they need in a knowledge-based economy where a talented workforce with communication, problem solving and critical thinking skills is necessary for an organization's success; and

WHEREAS: A recent report from New Jersey Association of School Librarians found 75% of students lack training to locate articles and resources they need for their research, 60% do not verify the accuracy or reliability of the information they find, and 44% do not know how to integrate knowledge from different sources; and

WHEREAS: Student skills in evaluating information is lacking, as shown in a recent Stanford History Education Group it was found more than 80% of students believed that the native advertisement, identified by the words "sponsored content" was a real news story; and

WHEREAS: The National Council of Teachers of English recognize that resource-rich school libraries and certified school library media specialists play key roles in promoting information literacy. These professional librarians help students acquire critical thinking skills and increase their global awareness; and

WHEREAS: Educational research demonstrates that the services of school library media specialists and supported collections enhance student achievement. Several research studies show that when classroom teachers collaborate with full-time credentialed school library media

specialists to design, implement, and assess instruction, student achievement increases significantly; and

WHEREAS: The New Jersey Library Association has stated that school libraries are a safe learning environment where all students have equal and equitable access to learning, support, and information for personal and educational purposes; and

WHEREAS: School libraries build their collections in direct connection to classroom content and we recognize that many of our children do not have the necessary support for accessing public libraries for selecting reading materials and/or resources for succeeding on their core curricular projects. We also recognize that the Digital Divide still exists, and many of our children still do not have access to electronic resources (the Internet and educational databases) at home; and

WHEREAS: There has been a 20% decrease in school library media specialists in New Jersey Schools since 2008 and many school districts lack a curriculum for Information Literacy; now therefore be it.

Resolved: That the Livingston Public Library Board of Trustees urge Local Educational Agencies, the New Jersey Department of Education and state legislators to make an increased commitment in funds and support for highly effective school library programs, staff with certified school librarians who instruct students in a standards-based Information Literacy curriculum, accessible to all children.

ROLL CALL				
	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay
Peggy Slatkin	✓		Iris Leopold	✓
Cynthia Vallario	✓		Mayor Klein	✓
Judith Nudelman	Absent		Nora Lichtenstein	Absent
Charles Tahaney	✓		Laurence Bergmann	✓
Barbara Bye	Absent			

VOTE

The following resolution was passed with a majority approval

2017-12 Approval of the 2017 Budget for the Livingston Public Library as Adopted by the Livingston Town Council

WHEREAS, The Livingston Public Library seeks to plan its income and expenses for 2017

WHEREAS, the 2017 Budget of the Livingston Public Library has been recommended for adoption by the Finance Committee and been submitted to the Township of Livingston

WHEREAS, after the submission of the budget adjustments were made to portions of the budget charged directly to the Library by the Township

NOW, THERE FORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board approves the 2017 Budget as attached to this resolution and adopted by the Livingston Town Council at the May 1, 2017 meeting.

ROLL CALL					
	Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay
Peggy Slatkin	✓		Iris Leopold	✓	
Cynthia Vallario	✓		Mayor Klein	✓	
Judith Nudelman	Absent		Nora Lichtenstein	Absent	
Charles Tahaney	✓		Laurence Bergmann	✓	
Barbara Bye	Absent				

New Business

1. Staff Appreciation Lunch: May 23: There was no discussion

Financial Reports

The financial reports were included in the packet.

VOTE

Bills Payable

A motion to pay the bills was made by Iris Leopold; seconded by Cynthia Waller Vallario and duly passed.

Correspondence: Letter from Montessori Children’s Academy: There was a brief discussion as to why a private school would choose to donate books to the Livingston Public Library.

Adjournment

VOTE

A motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. was made by Laurence Bergmann; seconded by Iris Leopold and duly passed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting it was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Di Popolo

_____, Co-President

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 2017