

Library Association of Ringwood, Inc.

Ringwood Public Library, 30 Cannici Drive, Ringwood, NJ

December 11, 2023, 7:00pm

Meeting Location-Ringwood Public Library 30 Cannici Drive, Ringwood, NJ

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Attendance 8 Trustees, Library Director, Library Assistant Director, and 32 members of the Association.

Call to Order At 7:06pm, President Amy Boyle Geisel called the meeting to order and read the following statement: Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the usual course to the Suburban Trends, Record, Herald News, Borough Manager, Borough Clerk and the RPL website. Notice was posted inside the PRL and Ringwood Town Hall.

Amy Boyle Geisel welcomed the members of the Library Association of Ringwood. She clarified that tonight there would be a vote on three seats on the Board of Trustees that were up for elections. She shared her thoughts on the importance of the library to the town. She thanked the co-directors and staff for being first responders in the community through the covid pandemic and beyond.

Approval of Minutes from the 12/5/2022 Meeting

Cliff Safane made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2022, Annual Membership meeting. It was seconded by Paula Tedesco and passed with no objection.

Directors' comments to the Membership

Wendy Sandford welcomed all who were present. She spoke about the importance of free and protected access to libraries and celebrated the power of literature, learning and community. Wendy also shared her thoughts on how proud she is of our library collection and the many other services that the library offers. She thanked the library staff and shared that she is proud of the welcoming presence they offer to all who come into the library. She concluded by stating that the library belongs to all the citizens of Ringwood and encouraged people to come in and use the space.

MaryEllen D'Elia began her comments with a recap of service statistics. Highlights included an 18% increase in the number of people visiting the library.

She then reviewed work on policies. Of the 31 policies we revised this year the highlights include a revised

- Mission and Vision Statement,
- Materials Selection policy,
- Request for reconsideration of materials form, policy, and procedure,
- updates to patron behavior policies,
- revisions to several of our job descriptions,
- a new trustee pipeline process and forms to support the selection of new trustees,
- the adoption of the latest versions of the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement and Interpretations, Freedom to View Statement,
- revisions to our meeting room policies,
- removal or reduction of fines and fees that are barriers to access for some patrons.

Regarding additional projects, MaryEllen shared the following.

- Text version of the strategic plan.
- Working in partnership with the Ringwood School District and Lakeland High School
- Collaboration with the Ramapough and their Tomorrow People Mentorship Program
- Senior staff is working with an accounting consultant to refine our accounting processes.

Open Comments from the Membership

Robin Cannetti asked about the number of book challenges.

Paula Tedesco asked about the number of email subscribers.

Lisa Straubinger thanked the Director and Assistant Director for a good job leading the library staff.

Election of Trustees for three-year term

Slate of Candidates recommended by the Board of Trustees:

Robert McKay (Current Trustee)

Leona Kumagai

Regina Ledgerwood

Jennifer Hsu spoke about the process of the nominating committee and shared biographical information on the three nominees.

The candidates each made remarks to those present and spoke about their backgrounds, relationships to the library, the roles they had occupied as volunteers, and the unique contributions they hope to make to the Board of Trustees.

There was a vote by paper ballot.

Board Announcements

Amy Boyle Geisel thanked outgoing members of the Trustees, Jessica Einreinhof and Kathryn Grant for all the work they did during their time of service.

Open discussion about Ringwood Library Strategic Plan

Wendy Sandford and MaryEllen D'Elia reported on the status of the strategic plan as well as invited people to participate in a conversation on what they would like to see addressed in the plan.

The plan is for 3 to 5 years. Wendy read the mission and vision statements. Then she asked those in attendance what they want or need from the library. A discussion ensued.

Rebecca Cicala asked about programs for children 4 to 6 years of age.

Sue Peterson suggested a speaker series that is not necessarily book based.

Penny Safane asked about conversation groups in different languages.

Steven Bassett suggested an ASL program.

Amanda McCormick Gillman suggested texts to announce programs and also partnering with other libraries on programs.

Wendy and MaryEllen thanked people for their suggestions and shared that there would be meetings in January and February with a first draft ready by the end of the first quarter of the new year.

Presentation by the Friends of the Ringwood Library

Wendy Leine and Fiona Rose gave their presentation. They thanked all those who have helped with events. The Friends meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month in-person and on Zoom.

They made a call for more volunteers for events such as the St. Patrick's Family event, End of Summer Reading Concert, Book Sale, and Artisan fair.

Motions from the floor or any other business

There was none offered.

Public Session

A motion was made by Amanda McCormick Gillman to open the meeting to Public Session. It was seconded by Robin Canetti and passed without objection. There being no members of the public who wished to comment, Amanda McCormick Gillman made a motion to close the meeting to public session. It was seconded by Fiona Mc Namara.

Announcement of Election Results

The votes were counted, and Amy Boyle Geisel reported that 38 votes were cast. All trustees were voted in with no write in votes. Congratulations were offered to the new trustees.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Amanda McCormick Gillman and seconded by Robin Canetti. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

The next Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 7:00pm.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie Studwell
February 19, 2024