

Library Association of Ringwood Inc.
Ringwood Public Library ("RPL")
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 24, 2021 - 7:30 pm
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:36PM by President Amanda Beth McCormick Gillman and she 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 Ringwood Public Library's website. Notice was posted inside Ringwood Public Library and Ringwood Town Hall.

This meeting is being recorded.

In attendance: Trustees Amanda Beth McCormick Gillman, Amy Boyle Geisel, Jessica Einreinhof, Kathryn Grant, Lauren Maguire, Susan Rakosi Rosenbloom, Linda Schaeffer, Ed Thomas, Library Director Dan Parker, and members of the public, Wendy Sandford and MaryEllen D'Elia. Trustee Anne Siebecker was absent.

Consent Agenda

Amy Boyle Geisel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Susan Rakosi Rosenbloom. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Ed Thomas who arrived after the vote.

Regular Agenda

1. Friends Update

The Friends are discussing the Summer Reading Kick-off planning and the October Book Sale. Hats have been purchased and there is a discussion about purchasing branded t-shirts but more research is needed. Additionally, the board discussed possible uses of the money in the Friends account for projects to benefit the Library.

2. Fundraising Committee Update

Summer Reading kick-off planning continues. High School children are being asked to volunteer their time as service hours and a Google sign-up webform will be created to direct them to via email invitations. Hats will be arriving soon. The Fish and Chips truck has been scheduled for October 14 to coincide with the first night of the Book Sale.

A new idea for an adult, Association/Friends members only event for Summer reading called "Tales and Cocktails/Mocktails" to be held on August 19 from 7-9PM was discussed. Topics included possible business sponsorships, fees vs. donations, drink stations, celebrity bartenders, possible food vending, and a pre-event membership recruitment drive by the Board.

3. Advocacy Committee Update:

The committee has met twice. They are splitting duties into 2 different sets of tasks: attending meetings of Borough and County groups and seeking out organizations in town to partner with. The plan is to meet every 2-3 months.

There was a discussion about the TREX bench program that will begin on June 1 and will have a 6-month timeframe for completion. If successful, other entities may also take part to acquire additional benches.

4. Board Maintenance Committee:

The committee met with Dan and discussed the recruitment process for new board members including a discussion about keeping an eye toward diversity when looking at new trustee candidates. Additionally, the desire for exiting Trustees to retain a presence in the library via committees and the Friends was raised.

5. Public Hearing: Emails?

No emails were received.

6. Board Comments

Various topics were discussed including how to advocate during the Borough Council's Budget Meeting, evolving mask policies in the Library, Library hours, publicizing the Summer Reading Kick-Off event, and Trustees who are looking to step down or are facing re-election and/or term limits.

7. Director Comments

The new phone system has been installed and is up and running. The project came in at budget. Children's Programs have started and been well received. The new Children's Coordinator is settling in and meeting families. The Green Team partnered with the Library to put on a very popular program about lawn care that was well attended and well received by the community.

8. Old Business

- **NJ Library Construction Bond Act:**

Because the Borough's budget has not yet been passed we are in a holding pattern. The Borough believes that the increase in prices for building materials will mean there will be a shortfall in funding and is looking to bond out the project but can't do that until the budget is passed.

9. New Business

- **Library Cell Phone.**

There is a desire to use Venmo and other apps for fundraising. In order to do that an independent Library cellphone is required. Dan is asking the Board to grant him the authority to purchase a cell phone on behalf of the Library on a pay as you go basis and to open a Library Venmo account. Amy Boyle Geisel made a motion to grant Dan the authority to acquire a Library cell phone, wireless account, and Venmo account. Ed Thomas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- **Masking Requirements**

Dan is asking the Board to empower him to make changes to the reopening plan in conjunction with the Borough and Health Officer in light of Governor Murphy lifting the mask mandate. Board Members discussed the best way forward for the

Library in terms of safety for the staff and the public given the number of children who cannot yet be vaccinated for Covid-19 that come into the Library. The issue of public pushback for continued masking was also raised and discussed. Amy Boyle Geisel made a motion to authorize the Library Director to modify the Library's Reopening Plan in conjunction with the Borough Health Department. Jessica Einreinhof seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Open Public Session

A motion to open the public session of the meeting was made by Susan Rakosi Rosenbloom. It was seconded by Linda Schaeffer and passed unanimously.

Wendy Sandford thanks the board for thinking of the library staff in the Reopening Plan and expressed that the staff would continue to work with Dan's guidance.

There being no other public business, a motion was made by Amy Boyle Geisel to close public session. It was seconded by Linda Schaeffer and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to end the meeting was made by Amy Boyle Geisel. It was seconded by Lauren Maguire and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04PM.

The next regular meeting of the Library Assoc. of Ringwood Inc. is June 28, 2021 at 7:30pm in the library.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryEllen D'Elia
5/27/2021