

**Watchung Library Advisory Board Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 2017**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Watchung Library Advisory Board is to advise, support and promote the interests of the Watchung Borough Public Library.

A meeting of the Library Advisory Board was held this day in the Bicentennial Room of the Watchung Library, 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069.

Call to Order

President Amy Fiorilla opened the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

In Attendance

Amy Fiorilla, President

Margaret (Peggy) Ellis, Vice President

Eileen Dicken, Treasurer

Virginia Hartmann

Stephen Black, Council Liaison

Maureen Greenbaum

Hannah Kerwin, Branch Manager, Watchung Library

Annette von Brandis, Secretary

Keith McCoy, SCLSNJ

Absent

Stephen K. Pote, Mayor

Michael Vignola, Principal Bayberry School

Introduction

This is a meeting of the Library Advisory Board of the Borough of Watchung. This and all other meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Review of Minutes of May 3, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the May 3 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Eileen Dicken informed the Board that the bank balance was \$8,346.87 in March 2017. In April the library fines were \$221.36 and \$2.10 in fish donation which brought the total to \$8570.33 at the end of April.

The new debit card was issued which will make payments to Aqua Services that much easier. In May we paid \$100 for petty cash and Aqua Services \$100 (2x \$50 for services in April and May). We received \$194.61 in fines and \$7.15 in fish donations which brought the balance to \$8572.09 in the end of May.

In June we received \$278.23 in fines and \$7.86 in fish donations. \$50 was paid to Aqua Services. The ending balance for June is \$8808.18.

Report of Council Liaison

Stephen Black informed us that there will be a collective meeting with council and community members in September, prior to a regularly scheduled council meeting. Stephen said that in January limitations on the amount of bonding were placed which affected the plans to build. Therefore the town cannot secure any additional bonding until 2018.

WLAB asked what amount we were trying to get the bonding for. Steve will find out and also share the latest floor plans with the WLAB.

He summarized the goals of the workshop as follows:

- To review the need for the library/community center
- To discuss revised plans at a reduced cost
- To assess the condition of our current library

Advisory board members pointed out that council heard all opinions about the building before and came to a decision to move forward with building the library/community center. We all agreed.

Maureen Greenbaum mentioned that any new space should also include a Maker space. Usually the square footage for a library/community center relates to the size of the community— 2 square feet per person of usable space—there are 5,949 residents in Watchung, which would mean a building size of nearly 12,000 square feet.

SCLS representative Keith McCoy promised to provide a statement showing the ROI (return of investment) of a local library as well a marketing brochure showcasing the activities at the Watchung library.

The state construction bond act referendum for libraries passed both NJ State Assembly and Senate by a large margin. Virginia Hartman pointed out that Watchung was not listed on the NJ Library Association site referencing townships supporting the measure, though our council did approve a resolution on the matter. Stephen Black will look into the filing of our paperwork. Amy Fiorilla will follow up with Patricia Tumulty at the NJLA to ensure Watchung is listed on their site,

to show our support and interest. It is vital to have building plans ready to go and construction on the way in order to have a chance to qualify for these state matching funds.

Report of the Friends Liaison

Hannah Kerwin noted that the clock in the main room, which had been donated by a patron in honor of his wife, had been discarded, along with the plaque stating the honorarium. Margaret Ellis reported that the clock will be replaced by the Friends at their expense (approximately \$200), along with a new plaque. It was noted that the clock would be expected to hang in the refurbished library building in the future. The Friends have financed public programming events in Watchung: a happiness workshop based on brain science and a program about eagles, also featuring a live webcam showing their nest. There will also be a Lego event on July 24th. The K'nex program had to be canceled because the air conditioning in the building was out of order on the scheduled date.

Report of Library Branch Manager

Hannah Kerwin informed us that the cleaning of the building has improved and that Public Works replaced a toilet. Summer reading is in full swing and the participation of Watchung's residents is better than that of other small libraries.

Other Business

We briefly discussed the new website instituted by SCLS and the integrated circulation system coming in December.

A group of residents looked at Valley Furniture thinking that could be a possible solution for space, perhaps the Makers' Space?

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 13, 2017** at 3:00 PM in the Bicentennial Room at the Watchung Library.

Adjournment

On motion and unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette von Brandis