

Watchung Library Advisory Board minutes  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

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 WLAB was held this day in the Bicentennial Room of the Watchung Library, 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, New Jersey 07069.

Vice President Margaret Ellis opened and called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

In attendance:

- \*Margaret Ellis, Vice President
- \*Eileen Dicken, Treasurer
- \*Tamara Benc, Secretary
- \*Maureen Greenbaum, Member
- \*Annette von Brandis, Member
  
- \*Daryl Eisenberg Knegten, Council Liaison
- \*Tricia Keene, Valley View Middle School Librarian
- \*Lynn Mazur, Youth Services Department Supervisor (Warren/Watchung)
- \*Lauren Ryan, SCLS Public Services Manager
- \*Hannah Kerwin, Watchung Library Branch Manager
  
- \*Andy Baldassarre
- \*Virginia Hartmann
- \*Cori Haveson
- \*Catherine Leigh

A motion was made by Eileen Dicken to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2019 meeting, seconded by Tricia Keene. All were in favor.

Hannah Kerwin introduced new staff member Lynn Mazur, the youth services department supervisor for Warren and Watchung.

Treasurer Eileen Dicken provided a report of the credits and debits to the treasury since the last meeting:

\*February 2019 opening balance: \$11,112.87

\*March 2019 +130.10 deposit from local portion of fine income

+4.09 from fish donations

-75.- for Aqua Service Professionals

\*March 2019 new balance: \$11,172.06

\*April 2019 +174.41 from fines

+1.86 fish donations

-80.- for Aqua Service Professionals (regular service + 5.00 air stone)

\*May 2019 new balance: \$11,268.33

In April the fluorescent bulb in the library fish tank was not functioning at times and taking too long to come on at other times, so Mrs. Dicken purchased a new bulb. It is in the bottom of the cabinet. Reimbursement will come from fish donations. Members suggested and agreed that fish-related expenses under ten dollars come from fish donations.

Discussion ensued about the WLAB subcommittee report regarding a new facility. Ms. von Brandis stated that she thought it was very well done. Both she and Ms. Dicken offered ideas about showcases and safekeeping of items for display in a new facility. Ms. Dicken made a motion to accept and approve the WLAB subcommittee report. Ms. von Brandis seconded it. All were in favor.

Lauren Ryan reported that applicants are still waiting for information about state grant forms.

Hannah Kerwin stated that the library is waiting for internal decisions regarding study spaces in the current library as well as information about the movement of furniture by the borough's Department of Public Works (DPW). She shared the following information as well:

\*The upstairs bathroom space is being used to store paper goods delivered by the DPW.

\*The system-wide summer reading theme relates to outer space.

-Lynn Mazur reported there are outdoor performers scheduled to present this summer.

-Virginia Hartmann mentioned the electronic sign in front of Borough Hall can be used to promote library programs.

Ms. Haveson noted that she observed a cleaning person enter and leave the building after hours one evening, who gathered trash and left in less than twenty minutes.

Ms. Eisenberg Knegten reported that she was one of several persons who met with Architect Iovino earlier in the day today; he is waiting for results from a geotechnical test in the space between Scott Drive and the exempt hall. Two quotes for this test were obtained: one for \$6800 and another for \$7000. Mr. Iovino would like the results back within the month; two to three weeks is the turnover time for results, so it is important for samples to be taken soon. She also reported that no other sites--aside from the space between Scott Drive and the exempt hall--are currently being discussed. In addition, at last week's Public Works committee meeting, Council member Bill Nehls said that quotes will be obtained for painting and making small window repairs at the current library. Ms. Eisenberg Knegten closed her report by reiterating that verbal support of all Council members to build a library has been expressed.

Ms. Haveson had a question for Ms. Ryan about decision-making regarding the placement of the subcommittee report in the library. Ms. Ryan responded that internal decisions were made by library staff. To her knowledge, no council members were involved in the decision-making. Mr. Baldassarre inquired about boring vs. digging test pits for the geotechnical study at the new library site (behind the exempt hall). Ms. Eisenberg Knegten reported boring will be done.

The next meeting of the Watchung Library Advisory Board will be held July 10, 2019.

Ms. Eisenberg Knegten made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 PM. Vice President Ellis seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Benc, WLAB Secretary