

Watchung Library Advisory Board minutes
July 10, 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.

President Amy Fiorilla opened and called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

In attendance:

- *Amy Fiorilla, President
- *Margaret Ellis, Vice President
- *Eileen Dicken, Treasurer
- *Tamara Benc, Secretary

- *Daryl Eisenberg Knegten, Council Liaison
- *Lauren Ryan, SCLS Public Services Manager
- *Hannah Kerwin, Watchung Library Branch Director
- *George Sopko, Borough Council Member

- *Virginia Hartmann
- *Cori Haveson

Minutes from the May 2019 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Margaret Ellis to approve the minutes, seconded by Amy Fiorilla. All were in favor.

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

*April's ending balance/May 2019 new balance: \$ 11,268.33	
	+235.25 deposit (fines)
	+2.51 (fish donations)
Debits:	-75.00 Aqua Service Professionals
	5.12 (bulb: reimbursed, fish donations)
*May's ending balance	11,431.09
*June 2019 transactions	
	+180.49 deposit (fines)
	+2.34 (fish donations)
Debits:	-75.00 Aqua Service Professionals
	-75.00 Aqua Service Professionals
	3.95 (fish food: reimbursed, donations)
New balance:	11,463.92

Margaret Ellis, Friends of the Watchung Library liaison, presented her report including the following items:

- *a clearance sale of books, CDs, and DVDs was held
- *a set of patio furniture was purchased and set up; the outdoor area has further been spruced up with plantings of ferns by the bird bath and a bird feeder, and a pumpkin patch near the path to Best Lake.

*The Friends hosted two Kindergarten “meet ups” at the library (two sessions, each with a snack and story) in the community room so incoming kindergarten students and parents could become acquainted and enthused about entering school. More may be scheduled.

*Several contests have been run:

- Pi Day contest, where an apple pie was raffled off through a drawing of names
- Shredded book contest, where patrons guessed the identity of a book in a jar
- Jelly bean contest, where patrons guessed the number of beans in a jar and a child won a stuffed bear donated by Gray’s Florist.

*A puzzle has been installed in the reading room for community assembly at the table. The puzzle is changed out when completed. Patron response has been enthusiastic for this. Also a puzzle exchange has been added, where patrons can borrow puzzles for use at home. Donations of puzzles are also welcome.

*A children’s table puzzle was added to the children’s area, and additional children’s puzzles added to the circulating exchange.

*The toy train set was expanded in the children’s room.

*A coupon exchange was started in response to an inquiry from a member of the public on a neighborhood facebook page.

The Friends have a Facebook page and a website where everyone can check out Friends activities.

Public Services Manager Lauren Ryan provided an update after Ms. Fiorilla reported that Chris Korenowsky, SCLSNJ Director of Public Services announced that grant guidelines were published July 1. Ms. Ryan followed with this information: there will be a sixty day public comment time period followed by a thirty day response period. It is anticipated that the grant application period will start in early 2020. Ms. Fiorilla noted that work on the application should begin, shooting for the November time period.

Hannah Kerwin, Watchung Library Branch Director, reported that the Watchung Library has repurposed some space to create a quiet study room on the second floor. She requested assistance from the Department of Public Works, who shifted furniture and removed the door to the room. This allows for visibility and security. Ms. Fiorilla asked if there were any additional furniture needs for the study room and discussion ensued. Ms. Kerwin believes we can get by with the furniture in the current study room but lounge furniture would better serve the needs of the patrons in other areas of the library. Ms. Fiorilla called on Virginia Hartmann who has researched suitable lounge furniture for sale at Casey’s on route 22. Ms. Fiorilla called for the formation of a sub-committee to look into the purchase of lounge furniture for the library reading room. Ms. Ellis made a motion to spend up to \$800.- for some matching chairs and a side table, seconded by Ms. Benc. Ms. Eisenberg-Knetgen also suggested asking on Facebook if anyone would be willing to donate two matching club chairs. Ms. Fiorilla volunteered to be on the sub-committee and appointed Ms. Dicken to it as well. Ms. Kerwin reminded the group that we are tax-exempt.

Ms. Eisenberg-Knetgen reported that the borough council formally talked about painting the current library. On request from the DPW committee, an informal group of volunteers reviewed potential colors. A pewter gray color was suggested as well as black shutters and white trim. The WLAB made a recommendation to Ms. Eisenberg-Knetgen, the council representative, that this color scheme be used. Following this recommendation, Ms. Ellis made a motion to formally recommend this color scheme. Ms. Dicken seconded the motion. Ms. Fiorilla provided a large sample board she painted with the sample color matched and purchased at Home Depot, for review (which will remain in the staff room at the library). At 4:10 a quick recess was taken to go outside and assess the recommended color in daylight. The meeting resumed at 4:13 PM; at that time, a vote was taken and all were in favor of Ms. Eisenberg-Knetgen sharing the recommended color scheme with the council.

Ms. Eisenberg-Knetgen also reported the following information:

*a DPW meeting originally scheduled for July 11 was rescheduled.

*Architect Iovino recently sent a very basic floor plan for a new library to Mayor Balla, Council members Eisenberg-Knetgen, Gibbs, and Nehls; Attorney Albert Cruz; Public Works Manager Bob Burns, and Borough Administrator Tom Atkins. Details can no longer be shared as approximately fifteen hours after the report was sent, it was marked *Confidential*. Public Works will review the report first per the directive of the DPW chair.

*Based on the geo-tech study results, the site between Scott Drive and the exempt hall is buildable.

*The mayor met with the exempts. His initial offer for the building was turned down. Talks are ongoing.

*Council member Nehls continues to promote building on the site between Scott Drive and the hall.

Ms. Ryan, SCLS Public Services Manager, reported no other new business. She reminded the group that Lynn Mazur, Youth Services Department Supervisor for Warren and Watchung, visits the Watchung Library for at least two half-days per week.

Ms. Kerwin reported that a presenter with interesting creatures will provide a program in the community room tomorrow. Registration is full.

In new business, Ms. Fiorilla noted that since the current library will be painted, a new light would be helpful in the front of the building. The current fixture is worn and outdated, provides little light, and must be manually switched on and off when staff leave or arrive; this results in the light being on during daylight hours, and resulting in wasted electric use. A new light could be sought that would be on at dusk/off at dawn, and provide better light. Ms. Ellis made a motion to pre-authorize up to \$100.- for a new fixture. Ms. Fiorilla seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

The next meeting of the Watchung Library Advisory Board is scheduled for September 18, 2019 at 3:30 PM at the library. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Benc, WLAB Secretary