

Watchung Library Advisory Board minutes
September 18, 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 3:31 PM.

In attendance:

- *Amy Fiorilla, President
- *Margaret Ellis, Vice President
- *Eileen Dicken, Treasurer
- *Tamara Benc, Secretary
- *Maureen Greenbaum, member
- *Annette von Brandis, member

- *Daryl Eisenberg Knegten, Council Liaison
- *Lauren Ryan, SCLS Manager of Branch Services Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects

- *Hannah Kerwin, Watchung Library Branch Director
- *Tricia Keane, Valley View School Librarian

- *Virginia Hartmann
- *Cori Haveson
- *Nina Leach

Minutes from the July 2019 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by President Fiorilla to approve the minutes, seconded by Eileen Dicken. All were in favor.

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

June's balance:	11,463.92	
	173.39	July deposit (local portion of fines)
	2.66	Fish donations
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	11,639.97	July balance
	229.63	August deposit (local portion of fines)
	7.30	Fish donations
	- 252.32	debit for chairs
	-75.00	Aqua Service Professionals
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	11,549.58	August balance
	224.25	September deposit (local portion of fines)
	2.07	Fish donations
	-75.00	Aqua Service Professionals
	-75.00	Aqua Service Professionals
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	11,625.90	Today's balance as of September 18 2019

Discussion ensued regarding the new chairs purchased by the WLAB for the reading room of the Watchung Public Library. It was noted that patrons attending game night as well as those reading newspapers and magazines are regularly using the new furniture.

Vice President Margaret Ellis provided information about the Friends' Yard Sale scheduled to take place October 5, 2019. There are multiple facets to the fund raising in this event. Tables are available to vendors for a fee of \$25, a portion of which goes to the rental company to cover rental cost. The public is invited to drop off donated items for sale at the Community Room (lower level entrance) on October 3 and 4, 2019. Baked goods will also be accepted and offered for sale at the event. Community members may reserve a table by logging onto the Friends' webpage. Members are looking forward to a successful event with widespread community engagement as the public participate as donors, shoppers, and vendors. It is hoped this event may become an annual tradition.

Lauren Ryan reported that Christopher Korenowsky, Director of Public Services, sent out state library grant information to borough administrators. Ms. Ryan stated that the system-wide survey was finished, and results are being analyzed. Submission of grant applications is expected to occur at the beginning of next year. In addition, a copy of the strategic plan is available online and was presented to the commission at the beginning of September.

Watchung Library Branch Director Hannah Kerwin provided a building report. The upstairs study room now contains four chairs as well as a table (on which someone has carved his/her initials!) The table was repurposed from the lower level reading room. The chairs were procured at no cost by Amy Fiorilla from a donor in Warren who offered them on a local web forum. Ms. Kerwin reports that the room gets a lot of use, and will be very useful for tutoring groups. Ms. Kerwin also added art prints that had been in library storage, on the walls in the study room and landing area on the second floor, and near the restrooms on the first floor too.

Regarding programming:

- Ms. Kerwin shared that system-wide, the new name for museum passes is *cultural adventure passes*. Now passes may be booked only thirty days in advance, not ninety, in order to have more efficient usage.
- The "Spin the Wheel" Wednesday summer time activity was quite popular. The Echoes-Sentinel printed two photos of "Spin the Wheel Wednesday" that were taken by Hannah Kerwin and submitted to the newspaper by SCLSNJ.
- The September 17, 2019 program by singer Miss Donna was well-attended.
- Upcoming programs include the Meditation series beginning this Saturday as well as the Paint Diva on September 23.

President Fiorilla opened a conversation about a gutter issue at the library. She spoke with previous borough administrator Tom Atkins about the gutter leaders that have been added to the front of the library, to direct water away from the building; he reported it was a temporary stop-gap measure. Ms. Fiorilla suggested the Department of Public Works (DPW) keep possible flooding and water issues on its radar; as situated now, the gutters may be a tripping hazard and could allow water to pool and ice up on the sidewalks in the winter months.

Ms. Eisenberg-Knetgen, Borough Council liaison, reported that the paint color recommendation made by the WLAB for the current library (gray pewter, benjamin moore) was approved. The expense for the painting is on the Borough Council's meeting agenda for September 19, 2019. In addition, she shared that most conversations with Architect Iovino regarding plans for the new library building have included suggestions made by the ad hoc committee. Discussion followed regarding the borough's beautification budget. One other item of note was the new light for the front of the current building. At the last WLAB meeting, a motion to spend up to one hundred dollars for a new light was approved. This new light was not discussed at the last DPW meeting. Ms. Eisenberg-Knetgen will put this in her report, and Mrs. Fiorilla will follow up with correspondence to Councilman Nehls regarding the matter. A light that has auto on-at-dusk, off-at dawn-technology to save energy, downlighting (resulting in less light pollution); and long-life energy efficient LED bulbs will be suggested.

Before adjourning, attendees were reminded of the following important dates:

- October 3 and 4: Yard sale drop off from 4-8PM.
- October 5: Friends community yard sale; volunteers report at 6 AM.
- November 6: WLAB meeting
- January 8, 2020: WLAB meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Benc, Secretary