The Board of Trustees of Teaneck Public Library

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 4, 2024

(Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was a hybrid meeting, conducted in-person and via Google Meet.)

Call to Order, Attendance

Call to order at 6:31 PM, with the reading of the latest iteration of Section 5A of the Open Public Meetings Act, indicating that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by way of an annual meeting schedule posted in the Library and on the Library's website, in The Bergen Record, Teaneck Patch, The Jewish Link, and The Jewish Standard, and in the Town Clerk's office.

Trustees Present: Gerald Reiner, President; Benjy Burnat, Vice President; Keisha Carter, Treasurer; Evalyn Brownstein; Lillian Lewis; Paul Ostrow; Chondra Young, Mayor's Representative; Dr. Andre Spencer, Superintendent.

Also Present: Karen Orgen, Council Member; Sandra Silverberg, President, Friends of the Teaneck Public Library; Shinae Hyun, Library Director.

Absent: Myron Chaitovsky, Secretary.

Reorganization of the Library Board of Trustees

1. Elections:
   a. President - Gerald Reiner
   b. Vice President - Benjy Burnat
   c. Treasurer - Chondra Young
   d. Secretary - Myron Chaitovsky

   There were no other nominees for the positions, except Keisha Carter for Treasurer initially, but she declined. All named nominees were elected, without objection, upon motion by Paul Ostrow (Keisha Carter, second).

2. The following items were moved by Paul Ostrow (Evalyn Brownstein, second), and approved by consensus, without objection:
   a. Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule (Resolution LB 24-01)
   b. Approval of Official Financial Institutions (Resolution LB 24-02)
   c. Approval of Designated Newspapers (Resolution LB 24-03)
   d. Approval of Official Library Auditor (Resolution LB 24-04)
   e. Approval of Payment of Claims (Resolution LB 24-05)
   f. Approval of Official Library Attorney (Resolution LB 24-06)
   g. BCCLS Certification of Agreement (#23-07)

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on February 8, 2024
Minutes

Upon motion by Benjy Burnat (Lillian Lewis, second), the minutes of the Board’s December 6, 2023 meeting were accepted without objection.

Friends Report

Sandi Silverberg (President of the FTPL) reporting:

- Elections were held by ballot for the re-election of the officers for the Friends.
- The Board of Directors has been expanded, from 12 to 13, and the By-Laws have been amended.
- There were 72 attendees for the November concert and 40+ for the December concert. The Fort Lee Saxophone Quartet will be performing on January 28.
- The Challenge Grant with Bill Orr raised $10,000. There was a ceremony in the Library (photo/article in the Friends newsletter) when Bill Orr officially handed over the check. In addition, there was an anonymous person who gave $2,500.
- Membership has increased; kudos to everyone who worked on it.
- Friends Friday funding continues.
- The Friends newsletter promotes not just programs for the Friends, but also Library programs too - ie. Kids & Teens Winter Programs (listed in the January 2024 issue).

In response to a comment made at the last Council meeting, the Board President offered to document the Garden of Human Understanding timeline for the Council for clarification.

Update from the Superintendent

Dr. Andre Spencer, Superintendent of the Schools, reporting:

- Congratulations to the new Board of Education members: Dr. Kirschenbaum, Dr. Gruber, and Mr. Wolf. Kudos to the outgoing Board members: Sebastian Rodriguez, who served 16 years and as President; Ms. Denise Sanders, who served 7 years; and Ms. Nadia Hussein, who served 1 year.
- At the HS, there will be an early college program in collaboration with Bergen Community College that will allow students to earn an Associate’s degree, along with their HS diploma for the upcoming 2024-25 year.
- One of our elementary schools will be an “international baccalaureate world school,” which takes 3 years to be identified as such.
- Another elementary school will allow students to be bilingual/biliterate, with exposure to another language besides the one they speak.
- There will be a “magnet medical program” for our third elementary school, in partnership with Holy Name Hospital.
- Select high school students in the 11th and 12th grades will have opportunities to learn about hotel management (front desk, restaurant/sales management, etc) with paid internships.
- At last night’s reorganization meeting, Clara Williams and Cassandra Reyes were elected Board President and Vice President, respectively.

Treasurer’s Report

It was noted that there were a few bills for 2024, including $10,000 for Overdrive (e-content). Since the Library came in under budget for 2023, it helps to “pre-pay” with last year’s money,
Upon motion by Paul Ostrow (Evalyn Brownstein, second), all were in favor of accepting the Treasurer’s Report, without objection.

**Director’s Report**

Director Shinae Hyun reporting:

1. December started with a special *Holiday Concert* on December 5 that had 53 attendees. Everyone had a great time, singing and dancing. One patron emailed their thanks for a “great program.”

2. The December 10 *Local Author Expo*, managed by Children’s Librarian Margo Franklin and Reference/Technology Librarian Cara Scott, was well attended with great feedback; we will plan another one in the future.

3. On December 12, we had our first *Musical Storytime*, which will be offered monthly for 3 months.

4. On December 20, the Youth Services Department hosted the second *Homeschool Meetup*.

5. There is a *StoryWalk Scavenger Hunt*, created by Children’s Librarian Alicia Abate, for the winter. Kids are asked to find and count all of the animals throughout the new story, *Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter*, and then come in to tell how many animals they found in the story to receive a prize.

6. We also have the *Winter Reading Challenge* from December through January, with a bingo board provided by the Library or on our website. Once completed, children can bring it in to enter into a raffle for prizes including a cozy winter reading basket, a climbing gym gift certificate, and an art bundle.

7. Teens who came to *Taylor Swift’s Birthday Party* program on December 12 had a great time with photos, playing Taylor Swift Trivia, and eating cupcakes. There was even a grand prize raffle for a vinyl record of Taylor Swift’s *1989, Taylor’s Version*. Because of this success and the interest generated, Teen Librarian Jacqueline Quinn looks to plan another one for all ages once the *Eras Tour* dvd is released.

8. During the holiday break week, teens also had a *Pizza & Movie* program and *Five Nights at Freddy’s Escape Room* program.

9. Thanks to the Friends of the Library sponsoring for the Museum Pass program, the Library added the Jewish Museum and the 9/11 Museum; a new brochure including the Friends logo is coming.

10. Staff are working on the spring newsletter and the March 10 *Makers Day* program.

11. Reference Librarian Cynthia Zimmerly worked with the Teaneck Historical Society to offer the *Railroads in Teaneck* program on January 14. Municipal Historian and Teaneck Township Emergency Management Coordinator, Larry Robertson, will discuss the railroad history and Teaneck rail safety issues.

12. Administrative Assistant Deborah Young and the Director met with Stephanie Landau from Teaneck Creek Conservancy to discuss their Benjamin Franklin students’ art exhibit at the Library. It will be on the wall by the Auditorium entrance in the lower level beginning January 5.

13. On December 20, engineers reviewed the Library’s old plans, in preparation for working on the project’s mechanical, electrical, and plumbing scopes. The Director and Administrative Assistant Deborah Young visited RSC in Hackensack to pick some of the finishes.

14. Staff will be trained on the Palace Project in January 2024.

15. Breda McGarry started as a FT Library Assistant on December 1 and Bethanny Evans joined the Library as a Page in the Youth Services Department.

16. PT Reference Librarian Susan Price is resigning on January 7. Due to staff shortage in the Reference Department, a replacement will be hired. Interviews will begin for the advertised PT Library Assistant in January.
In response to concerns about cancellations (for registrations, etc), the Director explained that once the allotted spots fill up, there is a waiting list. Patrons on the waiting list would then move up (into a spot) if there is a cancellation. And there is an internal procedure that monitors the number of times a particular patron “no-shows;” once that is met, that patron would be banned from registering for programs for 6 months.

Regarding MLK January events, the Director indicated there is “a lot going on,” with 5 Thursdays in February set for programs co-sponsored by the Library and the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Committee, as part of the 2024 Black History Month programs. And Seleene Wong will organize a reading.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Paul Ostrow (Benjy Burnat, second) passed without objection at 7:14 PM.