The Board of Trustees of
Teaneck Public Library

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 8, 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 6:32 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; Chondra Young, Treasurer & Mayor’s Representative; Myron Chaitovsky, Secretary; Evalyn Brownstein; Keisha Carter; Lillian Lewis; Paul Ostrow.

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

Absent: Benjy Burnat, Vice President; Dr. Andre Spencer, Superintendent.

Minutes

Upon motion by Evalyn Brownstein (Lillian Lewis, second) the minutes of the Board’s January 2024 meeting were accepted without objection. (Myron Chaitovsky abstained.)

Friends Report

Sandi Silverberg (President of the FTPL) reporting:
- Last week’s concert (featuring the Fort Lee Saxophone Quartet) was a big success with over 60 attendees.
- In mid-February, the Friends will host the Adelphi Chamber Ensemble; and on March 17, the Friends will feature a concert with internationally renowned pianist, Itay Goren. A Book Sale is being planned for May, to be held indoors, though somewhat smaller than in the past.
- Also, the Friends will cover the cost of the movie licenses for films presented by the Library.

Treasurer’s Report

Upon motion by Paul Ostrow (seconded by Chondra Young), the Treasurer’s Report, which included both a 2023 bill list as well as one from 2024, along with the 2023 Operating Budget Report and the Miscellaneous Account Disbursement (as of the end of January), was accepted without objection.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on March 7, 2024
Director’s Report

Director Shinae Hyun reporting:

1. We received our share of the BCCLS allocation from Bergen County, which was used to fund a specific series of visual arts programs for our adult patrons this past year.

2. In honor of Muslim Heritage Month, the Library offered two programs, including a movie on famous Islamic inventions of the Middle Ages and a Henna presentation.

3. The Teaneck Historical Society offered a well-attended program (over 50 participants) on railroads in Teaneck. The Society will be interviewing local residents in the Library, as part of an ongoing oral history project.

4. Looking back, the Library offered 85 programs in January with close to 1400 participants. New programs included Speed Friending and Dating Apps 101, both aimed largely (but not exclusively) at seniors. These were coordinated and run by Head of Patron Services, Jonna Davis. Speed Friending proved so popular that another session has already been scheduled for mid-March.

5. Reference/Technology Librarian Cara Scott offered Resume Help on alternating Tuesdays, in addition to her weekly One-On-One Tech Help sessions. She also offered two Smartphone Basics Workshops one for iPhones, the other for androids. For those interested in the Library’s digital resources, Libby, Kanopy, and Hoopla workshops are offered monthly.

6. Jonna and Cara also resumed their monthly visits to Arbor Terrace and residents have stopped by to get help with eContent and their devices

7. In conjunction with Pearl Observatory, Youth Services offered a special program for children entitled Lil Al Dinosaur, which attracted 67 people on a Sunday. Children were able to piece together a 3D interlocking puzzle and had a chance to touch a dinosaur egg and tooth.

8. As part of our Year of Holidays 2024, the Library offered a Three Kings Day StoryTime and Craft, and a Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, Day of Service, the latter in cooperation with Teaneck’s Helping Hands Food Pantry

9. On January 29, National Puzzle Day, we attracted 26 people as teen girls completed a 500 piece puzzle while younger children colored smaller blank puzzles to take home.

10. For Teens, our After School Tuesday program continues with activities such as Hot Cocoa in a Jar, Bracelet Making, Cross Stitch Bookmarks, and Junk Journals. Future programs will include marble painting, origami and more. A special Glow In The Dark Paint Night with Artytime allowed teens to paint under black light.

11. A new STEM program series, Tween Tinker Club, has begun and was well received by students grades 4-6 and their parents. Activities included Oobleck, Building Challenge, and Watercolor Wax Experiments.

12. Tax forms are available in the reference room. New Museum Pass brochures are available with new offerings to the Jewish Museum and the Morris Museum.

13. Our ESL program had two new student tutor matches and 11 tutors will attend the February training sessions.

14. Staff continues to weed our collection aggressively in advance of the anticipated Friends-sponsored May Book Sale. Our entire music CD collection will be withdrawn in March and those CD’s will be sold at the book sale.

15. Staff has also been reaching out to various organizations for collaboration in preparation for our Makers Day Program scheduled for March 10. (Last year over 300 attended.)

16. Renovation Project: The Director met with RSC Architects at the Library to review colors and samples for new furniture; Head of Patron Services, Jonna Davis, met with them in their Hackensack office to further review and revise plans and samples.

17. The Township’s purchasing agent has provided contact information for two vendors who can provide trailer and/or modular space to accommodate us during construction. Administrative Assistant Deborah Young will be reaching out to them and to additional vendors through the Sourcewell Cooperative.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on March 7, 2024
Old Business

LB-24-07 Request for Town Council to Ratify our Architectural Proposal

Upon Gerald Reiner’s motion to approve the draft resolution as written (Myron Chaitovsky, second), the motion passed without objection.

New Business

A. President Reiner noted that former Council Member (and representative to the Library Board) Dr. Henry Pruitt has been invited to attend our next meeting to discuss a particular prospect and related funding. No details yet.

B. Also, it was recently discovered by Toniette Duncsan, a community member, that the Library site was, in fact, once a slave house; a copy of the email is appended. Once this has been confirmed by the Historic Preservation Society, it has been suggested that the Board commemorate the finding with an appropriate monument or plaque. Myron Chaitovsky noted that the plaque commemorating the site of the Red Oak that once stood on Cedar Lane was financed by the Puffin Foundation.

C. Lynne Kloss noted that BCCLS offers a range of presentations of interest to the Trustees, including panels on *Library Law* (dates to be announced) and an April Roundtable (no Directors allowed!) when staff share their problems/challenges and how they resolved them. Other future topics include: *How to Implement a Strategic Plan; Capital Planning; and The Value of BCCLS*. Mentors and panelists for future programs are always in demand.

Closed Session at 7:14 PM - Reopened at 7:20 PM.

Motion to reopen by Paul Ostrow (Gerald Reiner, second). The salaries for the two Library employees not covered by the Union contract (the Director and her Administrative Assistant) are to be increased by 3.25%, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Good & Welfare

Lillian Lewis reminded all of the trustees about *Black History Month* programming and meetings going on at the Library and elsewhere. She noted that she went to the excellent, well-attended Black History Month program held recently at the Mosque.

The Director noted that Sarah Jones, a longtime page at the Library, passed away recently. We extend condolences to her family.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Myron Chaitovsky (Paul Ostrow, second) passed without objection at 7:23 PM.

Myron Chaitovsky, Secretary
Prepared by Deborah Young

*Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on March 7, 2024*