At 6:09 p.m. Mr. Ginsberg called the meeting to order and announced that in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and State regulations governing remote public meetings, adequate and electronic notice of this meeting were provided on Oct. 11, to the Municipal Clerk, Princeton Packet, Town Topics and Trenton Times, posted in the library, on the library’s and municipality’s websites, and distributed to the standard distribution list.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Ms. Niedergang moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Slebi seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Ms. Kelley was not present for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- Sept. 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Final September Bills
- Preliminary October Bills
- Resolution 2022-24: Acceptance of Designated Gifts and Grants Q3 2022
- Resolution 2022-25: Library Operating Budget Amendment for the Budget Year 2022

Board Materials – There was no discussion on the included board materials: Monthly Director’s Report, 3Q 2022 Quotes for Products and Services, and 3Q 2022 Budget vs Actual.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Staff Spotlight – Megan McCafferty introduced herself and noted that she works part time in Youth Services. She has been a professional writer for 25 years and loves the library. She moved to Princeton when her now 18-year-old son was 18 months old, and they came to the library all the time. Ms. McCafferty found out about the open position in the Youth Services department where she now works at the desk. She is excited about books, reading and literacy, and sings in a covers band. She has taught writing classes at the library and plans are in the works to have her do so again.
Teen Representatives – The teen reps introduced themselves: Mitalee Pasricha – a senior applying to colleges, was excited for TAB to come back to the library and is sad the aquarium is gone; Emma Tully, a third year TAB member and junior at Princeton High School belongs to several clubs, is in the technical theatre program and works at the Princeton Friends School; Sophie Feldman is a senior at PHS – her grandmother is an author (with books on the third floor), she is a copy editor for the school newspaper and plans to major in English; Lily Dodds is a senior and fourth year TAB member– she co-hosts the Keeping Tabs podcast (with Sophie) and is excited that after years of finding books by browsing the library shelves, she now interviews some of those authors.

The teens reported that TAB met with new and old members on Sept. 20, enjoying snacks and games and decorating the book drop; they are preparing for a Mo Willems theme for Trunk or Trunk with candy at the police station on Oct. 27 and the YMCA on Oct. 28, and a scavenger hunt in November geared towards middle schoolers with the focus on popular middle-grade novels – all can participate. Their podcast, Keeping Tabs, has 431 total plays; their most recent episode, with Jessica Rubinkowski, had 30 plays. They are working on an episode with Kate Alice Marshall who writes YA and middle-grade paranormal mystery books. Ms. Tully is currently editing a podcast with Gloria Chao to be released in November.

President’s Report Mr. Ginsberg remarked on the Children’s Book Festival that was held in person; he noted it was a great experience. He acknowledged Susan Conlon, the Youth Services staff, the Facilities staff and all other staff members that contributed to the event, as well as to jaZam’s for their participation. Mr. Ginsberg noted he attended Dana Treichler’s tech class which was great.

Mr. Ginsberg informed the Trustees that a letter drafted on behalf of the Board regarding the court case they discussed in closed session has been forwarded to the prosecutor.

Friends of the Library Report – Ms. Podolsky read the Friends and Foundation report in Ms. Bradley and Ms. Muir’s absence: Beyond Words was held on Saturday; it was well attended and all had a great time. Thank you to all the Trustees that attended, to Mel Grzymala for finding the speaker, to Dawn Frost and Addie Gordon for making the evening run smoothly, and to the staff members that helped that evening. The feedback received was positive. The Friends and Foundation’s next steps are to meet to discuss the endowment and the library’s long-term needs. Three Board members will not be returning: David Hill, Carol Herring and Sarah Waterbury. They have selected three new board members: Florence Kahn, Courtney Lederer and Brent Shaver and will vote on the nominations at their November meeting before forwarding the recommendations to the library’s board for approval. The Book Lovers’ Luncheon will be held in the spring with author Lynne Olson. Bookstore volunteers are crucial to the success of the bookstore and annual sale, interested volunteers can contact Claire Bertrand.

Bylaws and Policies Committee Report – Ms. Oster noted the committee met and reviewed to finalize the library’s code of conduct; the bylaws will be reviewed at their next meeting.

Strategic Planning Committee Report – Ms. Wakefield deferred to Ms. Podolsky who noted that she, Ms. Bess will review the draft with the strategic planning consultant and some members of the senior staff before presenting it to the Strategic Planning Committee.

Finance Committee Report – Mr. Van Buren noted the committee met and reviewed information provided by the Finance Director. Ms. Chernik pointed out a few details: budget vs actual - revenue is 92% due to the fourth quarter contributions from the municipality and the endowment received in the third quarter. She noted expenses are about 73% for the end of the third quarter - which is on target. The third quarter results (minus the municipal and endow contributions) show a -$47K, which is less
than the $161K anticipated use of fund balance. She noted the library hopes to end the year positive and not use fund balance.

**Trustee Recommendations Report** – Ms. Niedergang noted that there are several interested candidates that Mr. Ginsberg, Ms. Wakefield and Ms. Niedergang will interview next week, then recommend to the Mayor those selected from the list of qualified candidates.

**Fundraising Committee Report** – Ms. Podolsky noted that in Ms. Belshaw’s absence, Janet Simon will be helping the Development Office. They will work with the Friends and Foundation discussing the history and future of the endowment and focusing on the annual appeal. Ms. Oster asked if the appeal was on target; Ms. Chernik confirmed it was.

**Director’s Report** – Ms. Podolsky thanked everyone that came and those that worked on the Children’s Book Festival. She acknowledged the work of the Facilities staff for all they do. She noted the Trustee Institute was on Saturday; if there is a recording, she will share it. Ms. Podolsky thanked all who came to and helped with Beyond Words and gave a shout out to the Mayors Wellness Campaign that focused on mental health with book discussions, workshops, story times, take and make kits, and an outdoor hula hoop party. She invited all to visit the library’s events calendar for remaining events programmed through January.

**Revised Code of Conduct** - Ms. Oster moved approval of the revised Code of Conduct. Mr. Felten seconded the motion. Ms. Oster noted the committee considered all comments provided and finalized the virtual and offsite venue portions, and it has been reviewed and approved by the attorney. Ms. Niedergang questioned whether cannabis needed to be specifically mentioned. Ms. Oster confirmed that based on the attorney’s feedback, it did not. The motion passed unanimously.

**2023 Library Holidays and Closing Schedule** - Ms. Niedergang moved approval of the 2023 Library Holidays and Closing Schedule. Ms. Wakefield seconded the motion. There was discussion on including acknowledging additional holidays on the library’s schedule when the library is open. Ms. Wakefield noted Sunday closing time errors on the schedule. Ms. Niedergang and Ms. Wakefield recommended tabling the 2023 Library Holidays and Closing Schedule to the next Board meeting.

**Board Comment** – Ms. Slebi noted a campaign and display she saw for new library card’s for children in a library in New York, that included super heroes. She suggested an analysis of children reading digitally vs hard copy and pros or cons for either, and suggested maybe new library cards could capture the attention of the reluctant or digital-only readers. Ms. Vloeberghs, head of Lending Services, noted that putting characters on library card requires royalties and permissions.

Ms. Kelley suggested relationship building draws children to reading and providing and creating comfortable spaces in which they can read. She suggested a data-sharing agreement campaign whereby children registering for school automatically get a library card.

Ms. Wakefield suggested the banner hanging outside of the library on Hinds Plaza should highlight that PPL is NJ’s only 5-star library.

**Meeting Schedule/Adjournment** – Mr. Felten motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Niedergang seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16, 2022.