BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2023

Location: Newsroom, Princeton Public Library

In Attendance
Trustees: Holley Barreto, Ed Felten, Robert Ginsberg, Sarah Moore, Jeffrey Liao, Eve Niedergang, Stephanie Oster, Sebnem Tuzun

Library Staff: Erica Bess, Becky Bowers, Susan Chernik, Susan Conlon, Janie Hermann, Jennifer Podolsky, Karen Rackley, Sonja Vloeberghs, Nora Walsh

Teen Reps: Lily Dodds, Sophie Feldman, Emma Tully

At 6:03 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 public meetings, adequate and electronic notice of this meeting were provided on Feb. 6, 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.

Mr. Ginsberg welcomed Ms. Sarah Moore who was the Superintendent’s designee for the meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Ms. Oster moved approval of the Consent Agenda; Ms. Niedergang seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Jan. 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Final January Bills
- Preliminary February Bills

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Staff Spotlight – Ms. Podolsky introduced Ms. Nora Walsh, adult services librarian, who has been with the library since 2018. Ms. Walsh explained she is part of the adult services team, with time spent working on the service desks on the first and second floors; she is part of the local history group, help with genealogy questions, and part of the programming team, specifically the writing groups, sketchers, and the job seeker group. She asked the Trustees to save the date, April 29, for local author’s day. She helps with desk scheduling, administrative and behind the scenes tasks, and programs in the library and off site. Ms. Tully asked Ms. Walsh to recall a strange request. Ms. Walsh noted that someone brought in a hanger from a garment cleaning group at the University in the 1930s; she and her colleagues were able to locate an advertisement in the Papers of Princeton for a student dry cleaning group.
President’s Report – Mr. Ginsberg appointed the following standing committees:

- Policy committee: Stephanie Oster (chair), Ed Felten, Jeffrey Liao with assistance from staff member Ms. Rackley.
- Finance committee: Chris Van Buren (chair), Jeffrey Liao with assistance from staff member Ms. Chernik.
- Nominating committee: Eve Niedergang (chair), Carol Kelley, Sebnem Tuzun

And a staff appreciation committee: Sebnem Tuzun (chair), Holley Barreto. Mr. Ginsberg noted that he is ex-officio on each committee.

Mr. Ginsberg noted that in September, the Board nominated Janie Hermann, programming manager, for the American Libraries Association - I Love My Librarian award. To the Board’s disappointment, Ms. Hermann was not selected as one of the ten awardees from the 1500 nominees. The Board thanked Ms. Hermann for her work at the library.

Mr. Ginsberg shared that this is the start of his twenty-fifth year as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Friends and Foundation Report – Ms. Podolsky provided an update as Ms. Muir was unable to attend the meeting: Mel Grzymala resigned from the Friends & Foundation Board and the Board is looking for a replacement; recommendations can be sent to Ms. Muir. Recruitment for book sale volunteers will be held at two Behind the Bookstore events; Feb. 16 and March 8. The bookstore committee will consider high school students as volunteers at their next meeting. The Book Lovers Luncheon will be on April 28 at Nassau Inn with author Lynne Olson.

Teens Report – TAB hosted Chill Out, an after midterms event; 20-25 teens attended; there was Karaoke, photo booth, video and board games, craft and origami projects, and a place to read advanced reader copies. There was also a teen-only event, Chill Out with a Movie, at which approximately 20 teens watched “Clueless” while enjoying snacks. TAB hosted two Valentine’s Day-themed events: PS I Like You, centered towards teens that included watching the movie “Tangled” and making Valentines, clay creations and felt hearts; and for younger children, the event, This is Why I Heart You, with a photo booth, frame decorating and Valentine making. TAB interviewed Maureen Johnson, author of Truly Devious Mystery Series, for their “Keeping Tabs” podcast on Spotify.

Bylaws and Policies Committee Report – Ms. Oster reported. The committee has been reviewing the bylaws and have revised the first several sections and will continue reviewing and revising at their next meeting. The committee expects to present the revisions to the Board for a vote at the April meeting.

Finance Committee Report – Ms. Chernik reported. The committee met and reviewed the 2022 year-end operating results. She referred the Board to the Budget vs Actual Summary and Treasurer’s Report included in their packet. The library ended the year positive with $48K due to two main factors: a higher than budgeted annual appeal and a $156K savings in salaries and benefits for several open staff positions. It was not necessary to utilize fund balances in 2022.

Fundraising Report – Ms. Podolsky noted the application deadline for the development director position has been extended to the end of the month.

Director’s Report – Ms. Podolsky thanked the Trustees from the staff for the cookies they provided on Jan. 11. There is a comprehensive resource guide for Black History Month on the library’s homepage. Other library news - Glen Ridge library voted unanimously to keep the six books that a small group of citizens recommended be banned. More than 500 people attended the library’s board meeting in...
support of the library. Ms. Podolsky noted upcoming professional development training for Trustees. She mentioned a few upcoming programs including: “High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America;”; an author talk with Matt Desmond in conversation with Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, for his new book, “Poverty” to be held at the Nassau Presbyterian Church on March 23 for which a grant from the MacArthur Foundation was obtained by Ms. Hermann, Labyrinth Books and Mr. Desmond; and the Princeton Environmental Film Festival from March 24-31.

**March 15 Board Meeting Start Time and Board Retreat** – Mr. Liao motioned to change the start time of the March 15 Board of Trustees meeting from 6 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and to include notice of a 5:00 p.m. Board retreat on March 15 following the business portion of the meeting. Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Comment** – Ms. Niedergang asked about current use of the library compared to pre-pandemic and where are we compared to other libraries. PPL is doing well compared to other libraries. She noted that statistics are included each month in the Board packet; however, if there are other stats or more detailed stats the Trustees would like to see, let her know. There was discussion of costs of the digital collection.

**Meeting Schedule/Adjournment** – Ms. Tuzun motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Felten seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 15.