

Ramsey Free Public Library

Meeting of the Board of Trustees April 10, 2023

The April meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Martin with the reading of the public meeting law. Also present were Mr. Bogaenko, Mayor Dillon, Mrs. FitzPatrick, Mrs. Knauss, Mrs. McCaskey, Mrs. Ohnegian, Mrs. Rennie, Trustees, and Director Latham. Mrs. Palchisaca, Mrs. Thorp, and Councilman Gutwetter were absent. The minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting were accepted as received on motion by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mrs. McCaskey, and passed, with one abstention. The minutes of the Executive Session (March 13, 2023) were accepted as received on motion by Mrs. Knauss, seconded by Mayor Dillon, and passed, with one abstention.

Correspondence: None

Library Board Members Comments: None

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Bogaenko had forwarded the financial reports for March. Since it is early in the year, nothing jumps off of the page. The auditor payment has been made. Interest is higher than budgeted. Upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. McCaskey, approval to pay the March bills was unanimously passed. The treasurer's report was received and filed for audit.

Director's Report: The second in-person NJ Makers Day since the beginning of the pandemic had a turnout of at least two hundred people and the entire building was used. The 2022 version was still limited by time slots. This year there was a "tech petting zoo" where families and all ages could explore the different robotics, circuitry, and STEM tools from the Library of Things. There was another magnets building kit for small kids and another robotics kit at the event. The community room held three different projects and crafts for kids, all with a biology theme. There were building bird feeder molds in the children's room. Two Ramsey middle school students demonstrated their robotics and other projects that were also interactive for children. There were also college students in attendance. Over two hundred buttons were made this year with the button maker.

A special storytime was held in partnership with The Learning Experience in Ramsey with about twenty-two in attendance. Participants read with Bubbles the Elephant who came in costume for the event.

Ms. Newton ran a macrame bracelet making event, with seventeen in-person participants and another eighty views on YouTube.

Twenty-five adults attended Maturely Motivated, a theatrical and musician performance by a theater group, which was held during the day to target a senior citizen audience.

Events to celebrate Ramadan, with twenty-seven in attendance, and Nowruz, with thirteen in attendance, were held for children and families. Each event included crafts, activities, and learning about each holiday.

The Young Writers Contest for fourth and fifth graders which was begun in 2021 by Ms. Suarez is underway again in 2023. The eighty-eight submissions were collected in February and are being read and evaluated by various staff members and volunteers from the Friends of the Ramsey Library in March and April. The winners will be announced in May; the top three winners will get prizes. The top submission will be bound and added to the library's collection.

The library was closed for a half day on Friday, March 24th, to celebrate Kathy Elwell's retirement and also for staff training. Ms. Elwell appreciated the party. According to state law, she can return to the library in some capacity after six months. During the staff training, Director Latham provided updates on the ongoing projects and new BCCLS changes. The remainder of the time was spent cleaning out and organizing individual workstations, the shed, the kitchen, and other areas where there is a lot of storage. Two new storage shelves were put in Director Latham's office and in the shed, along with additional storage bins.

Regarding the HVAC project, the borough passed a concurring approval resolution at their Wednesday, March 22nd meeting. The paperwork that will finalize the selection of the contractor and officially award the contract is being

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completed. Once that happens, Director Latham will meet with the architect and the contractor to develop a timeline for the project. He also has been looking into grant possibilities but, unfortunately, Rockland Electric does not have any municipal grant opportunities. The borough is still looking into the bonding of even part of the cost of the project. He will check if there is protection on the cost of the project.

Reiner made repairs to a section of the baseboard in the children's room which had a hole which had begun to corrode. He replaced the section and repaired the underlying problem.

Regarding the lighting, several ballasts and bulbs needed to be replaced by the electrician both inside and outside the building.

Mrs. Ohnegian asked about the very small leak coming from the staff toilet. At this point, the problem is intermittent.

There were no notes included in the official audit report but there were three recommendations regarding the signing of vouchers, making deposits every forty-eight hours, and eliminating tax for library purchases. Steps will be taken to address the aforementioned issues. Upon motion by Mrs. McCaskey, seconded by Mrs. Martin, the audit was unanimously approved as submitted.

At 7:55 p.m., the meeting moved into executive session on motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. McCaskey, and passed.

Consent Resolution: Upon motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mayor Dillon, Consent Resolution 2023-3, the hiring of Brigitte Carroll as the Teen Services and Technology Librarian, a full-time position with benefits as spelled out in the union contract, at an annual salary of \$60,000, effective Monday, May 1, 2023, was unanimously approved.

Public Comment: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Members of the borough's Gay Pride Alliance requested the usage of the community room for a Drag Queen Storytime. Director Latham initiated a discussion of his recommendation that the library partner with the group and take partial ownership. If possible, the storytime should be held in June which is Pride Month. If it is determined that security is needed, the alliance will be responsible for the cost. Director Latham will check with JIF, Borough Administrator Vozech, and the Chief of Police. The numbers will need to be limited to the room capacity otherwise the

fire marshal will step in. Fair Lawn and Tenafly have had such a storytime in their libraries. It was suggested that each child be accompanied by an adult. The trustees did not want a partnership.

At 8:42 p.m., the meeting was closed on motion by Mrs. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Ohnegian, and passed.

