

Norwell Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes 12/12/2023

Present: Kathryn Mudgett (Chair), Sarah Cassidy (Vice-Chair), Monika Brodsky, Jeanne Hagelstein-Ivas, Chris Smith via Zoom, Rachel Breen (Director), Pam Achille

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Public Comments: None

Additions to Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously in a roll call vote.

Director's Report: In November there were 7,696 walk-in visits to the library. NPL staff issued 49 new library cards bringing the total number of active library cardholders to 5,418. Over 5,700 items were checked out and Libby Magazines, Hoopla and Consumer Reports were the most used digital resources.

Adult programs in November included Dinner & A Movie, Mindful Yoga for Everyone, Tai Chi, Knitting Night, and Basic Technology Help, as well as the two regular monthly Book Groups. Christopher Daley returned to the library with his presentation "Onslaught: The Wessagusset Incident". The South of Boston Board Game Meetup was held on November 18 and the library hosted the Express Lane Barbershop Quartet for an afternoon concert on November 19.

In collaboration with the Ashland Public Library virtual programs included a Q & A with Mystery writer and TV Producer Lee Goldberg and a Q & A with Author Virginia Pye on her new novel *The Literary Undoing of Victoria Swann*.

Teen programs included the monthly TAG meeting, a Take and Make Turkey Craft, a "Learn to Needle Felt a Pumpkin" workshop with The Felted Bee, the first meeting of the new Video Games Club, and a Teen Dinner and a Movie in collaboration with the Norwell High School featuring the movie *Finding Neverland*.

Children's programming included two Read to a Therapy Dog events, one with Skipper and one with Spider. Little Bee Yoga returned for Yoga Storytime, and the library hosted Mama Steph for a concert. Other regular programs included Storytimes with Marissa, Baby Playgroup, and a Fall Leaves Scavenger Hunt in the Children's Room.

Community Events included NPL's Food Drive for the month of November, all donations went to the Norwell Food Pantry. The library also acted as a drop-off location for the Winter Clothing Drive organized by the South Shore Community Action Council and Inspired Wellness Clinic.

The Norwell Democratic Town Committee, Norwell Historical Commission, Norwell School Committee, Norwell Commission on Disabilities, Girl Scouts of Eastern MA and the Cole School Girl Scout Troop all held meetings at NPL in November.

The November Art Exhibit in the Meeting Room featured "Tea Leaves & Tattered Sails" by artist Larry Guilmette, and the glass display case held handmade pottery by artist June Lee of June Lee Ceramics.

Financial Report: At the end of November the remaining FY24 balance in personnel services was \$350,674.41 and the remaining balance in general expenses was \$157,824.11. The cash drawer receipts totaled 540.40 and the public copier/printer receipts totaled \$145.00.

Friends: The Friends of NPL are working on their annual appeal letter which they plan to send out in the spring. They need more volunteers to help with book sales and with handling the large quantity of donations received regularly for the Friends Book Sale Room, so a discussion was held brainstorming ideas to help get the word out.

Foundation: There are a few people who have expressed interest in taking on the open positions in the Foundation, there is ongoing discussion with them with the goal being to have the positions filled over the next few months.

Library updates: The Library added the Homeless Library Academy to the Staff Training Component of Niche Academy which features dozens of teaching modules on a variety of topics around serving homeless patrons. We were also excited to add American Sign Language to our Mango Languages Online database.

FY25 Budget Request: The Draft of the FY25 Budget Request was presented and approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

State of the Town Breakfast: The annual Norwell Chamber of Commerce State of the Town breakfast will be held at NPL on Thursday, January 25th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Minutes recorded by Pam Achille.