

Board of Library Trustees

Minutes 9/19/2023

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

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Public Comments: None

Additions to Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from July meeting unanimously approved.

Director's Report: In July there were 7,339 walk-in visits to the library, 90 new library cards were issued, and over 7,600 items were checked out. In August there were nearly 8,700 walk-in visits, staff issued 96 new library cards which brings the current total of active NPL cardholders to 5,346, and over 8,600 items were checked out.

Adult summer programs included weekly Tai Chi, Mindful Yoga, Craft Knitting night, Dinner and a Movie, two monthly Book Clubs, and drop-in tech help. In collaboration with the Council on Aging the library hosted "Magic with Illusionist Lyn Dillies", and in collaboration with the Norwell Historical Society the library hosted "Norwell Underground" presented by Dr. Titelbaum. Both programs were very popular. NPL offered several virtual programs over the summer in collaboration with the Tewksbury Public Library and the Ashland Public Library, including An Evening with author Lisa See, Landing on the Moon with NASA's Solar System Ambassador David Ball, a Q & A with Sci-Fi/Fantasy author Martha Wells, and an evening with FBI Special Agent Julia Cowley, plus many more.

Teen summer programs included a Teen Movie night, Tie Dye T-Shirts, Wicked Good Henna, Take and Make crafts including a fairy string light and hanging wisteria, a Fairy Mason Jar craft program, and a YA Book Club.

Children's summer programs included weekly Storytimes and Baby Playgroup Sessions, Ed Popielarczyk and his Comedy Magic Show, the Toe Jam Puppet Band, Mad Science presenting their program "Invention-ation!", Bottlenose Dolphin Anatomy featuring a life-sized anatomically correct bottlenose dolphin, a Take and Make wooden picture frame craft, and Yoga Storytime. In addition there were three family movie matinees with popcorn and drinks over the summer.

NPL had a very popular and successful Summer Reading Program. 66 Adults, 25 Teens, and 284 Kids participated!

Many community groups and committees such as the Norwell Commission on Disabilities, the Norwell Historical Commission, the Sun Will Rise Grief Support Group, the South Shore Boston Board Game group, and the Furnace Brook Middle School Book Club met at the library

Art exhibits included Ted Walker's "Photographs of the Northeast and Southeast" and John Adams' paintings featuring the New England Coastline.

Financial Report: At the end of August the remaining FY24 balance in personnel services was \$490,381.93. The remaining balance in general expenses was \$211,083.95. The total cash drawer receipts from July and August totaled \$1,568.50 and the total copier/printer receipts from July and August totaled \$223.00.

Friends: The Friends are beginning to work on their Annual Appeal letter which they hope to send out in October, and are planning a fall Pop-up Book Sale fundraiser as well.

NPL Foundation: The Trustees are in the process of reaching out to prospective Norwell residents to take over the open positions in the NPL Foundation. The Foundation recently received a very generous \$10,000 donation bequest.

Library updates: The library now offers Mobile Printing and Faxing. There is a Banned and Challenged Book informational storywalk around the outside of the building, and the library is participating in the statewide Let Freedom Read initiative. The annual ARIS and State Aid Financial Report have been submitted to the MBLC.

Capital Plan: Director Rachel Breen has submitted a draft of the 10 year Library Capital Plan to Assistant Town Administrator Kim Roy for inclusion in the Town of Norwell 10 Year Capital Plan which is currently in the planning phase.

Library Communication Board: The new Communication Board generously purchased for the library by the Norwell Commission on Disabilities has arrived and is mounted on a mobile stand for nonverbal or speech impaired patrons to use to facilitate communication with caregivers and library staff.

Patron Satisfaction Survey: The new library has been open for two years so there will be a Patron Satisfaction Survey posted on the website during the month of October.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm. Minutes recorded by Pam Achille.