

Eisner Memorial Library 84 West Front Street Red Bank, NJ 07701

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Board Meeting of the Trustees Meeting Minutes February 16, 2023

Time: 6:30pm Location: Library Meeting Room

- I. Call to Order: 631pm
- II. Open Public Meetings Act: Let the minutes reflect that, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting has been provided by notifying via email the Asbury Park Press, the Two River Times and redbankgreen and by filing the same with the Borough Clerk on January 12, 2023.
- III. Oath of Office
 - A. Candyce Valor administered the oath of office to Sarah Corrado
 - B. Candyce Valor administered the oath of office to Luigi Laugelli.
- IV. Roll Call: Sara Siegler, Ann Goldman, Sue Viscomi, Stephen Hecht, Ann Ciabattoni, Mayor Portman, John Jackson, Luigi Laugelli, Robyn Gedrich (637pm), Sarah Corrado (637pm). Absent: Jared Ramage, Jim Whyte.
- V. Approve Board Meeting minutes
 - A. Approve January 19, 2023 Reorganizational Board Meeting Minutes: Motion by Stephen Hecht, 2nd by Ann Ciabattoni. Abstain: Luigi Laugelli. Absent: Jared Ramage, Jim Whyte.
 - B. Approve January 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes: Motion by Ann Ciabattoni, 2nd by Sue Viscomi. Abstain: Luigi Laugelli and Sarah Corrado Absent: Jared Ramage, Jim Whyte.
- VI. Treasurer's Report

Bill List – Action Item: \$25,172.59: Motion Abstain: Motion by Ann Ciabattoni, 2nd by Sue Viscomi. None Absent: Jared Ramage, Jim Whyte.

- VII. Director's Report:

CURRENT PROJECTS

NJCBG: We are waiting for the final question packet from the Contractor and expect work to begin shortly.

Cannabis Commission: Eileen Palmer, Interim Co-Executive Director of the NJLA, asked for the written statement I provided to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission. The NJLA will work on advocating to secure this funding source for NJ Libraries.

Traveling Collections: Several pieces from the Library's Eisner Collection have gone out on loan. The Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County's next rotation exhibit highlights Sigmund Eisner and his connection to Monmouth County. The Library has partnered with the Museum and provided 20 pieces from our collection for their exhibit. Items will be on display from February 2023 to May/June 2023. The Monmouth County Parks Department has also borrowed items for their upcoming The Art of War

exhibit; this includes a picture of Sigmund Eisner and General Pershing and the Uniform catalog. This exhibit runs from March 3, 2023 - March 9, 2025. An opening reception will occur on Saturday, March 11, from 3-6 pm.

Capping: Vinyl capping of the windows and doors of the Eisner Mansion portion of the Library has a tentative start date of Feb 22nd - weather permitting.

Roof Leak: Representatives from Jottan Roofing stopped by the Library to assess the situation. DPW will notify us of scheduling updates for these repairs once the vendor receives the materials.

Basement Fire Door: T&M Associates stopped by the Library with DPW to assess the structural integrity of the basement fire door.

MCIA Funds: Both the Borough CFO and Interim BA notified us of expiring MCIA funds available for the Library. Candyce and Eleni are considering using these funds to cover the remaining balance of the hybrid programming room.

NJFamily Care Expansion: The NJFamily Care program is expanding to ensure that all children, regardless of their immigration status, have health insurance. The Red Bank Public Schools are hosting two sign-up sessions next week, and the Library is working to partner with the Recreation Department to host backup enrollment sessions if necessary.

Post-Pandemic: Library participation is slowly going back to its pre-COVID days. Circulation for adults and juvenile collections was similar to 2019 Circulation Statistics. Notary services and Overdrive materials are higher than in 2019, however. We see increased library usage and believe our numbers will surpass 2019.

Exterior Painting: The Monmouth County Historic Preservation Commission awarded the library with just under \$3500. These funds will go towards painting the 1968 Library Addition this coming Spring, along with a \$2500 donation from Michael and Jan B. Eisner via the Eisner Foundation.

Staff Development Day: To ensure that all staff is well versed in the new technology and materials available to the public, Candyce and I plan to host three staff development days throughout the year. Details on these dates are forthcoming.

Library Audit: The 2021 Library Audit was completed in December with no recommendations or notes. Copies of the audit will be available for board members at Thursday's meeting.

Vin Gopal Civic Association: The Library will be hosting a food drive to benefit Vin Gopal's Civic Association. The drive runs from Feb 15 - March 15th.

Glen Ridge Library Book Bans: Candyce and Eleni attended the s February 8th Board Meeting for the Glen Ridge Public Library. The standing-room-only meeting at the Glen Ridge High School Auditorium illustrated a concise and well-put-together response to a materials challenge. Most of the discussion centered on six challenged materials by eight residents in 5 households. After two hours of public

comment from the community, each board member presented their evaluation of one of the six challenged books and weighed the material against the Library's Collection Development Policy. Ultimately, the board affirmed the Director's decision that the materials met the collection development criteria and would remain in the Library. Book Bans and challenges are increasing throughout the country, especially with materials highlighting marginalized voices and sexual education; it was a fantastic learning opportunity for Library Administration if such situations come to our Library's doorstep.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

Eisner Opportunity Lab: The Eisner Lab workshops continue to be well attended. Feedback from participants remains enthusiastic, with many indicating they signed up for one-on-one tutoring and Monmouth County Workforce Development newsletter. Staff from the Eisner lab are also starting to cross-train in other areas of the Library. The lab also received praise from a local women-owned business in Red Bank on [Facebook](#). Emily Miller provided Nourish Coaches with a tutorial and shared ideas about their communication plan. The post received over 20 likes, along with positive comments such as "That's the best small-town library"

Reading with Rabbits: Hop into the Children's Room on Saturday, March 4th, from 11A-12P for "Read with Rabbits!" from the 14 Carrot Rabbit Club – AGAIN! The 14 Carrot Rabbit Club stopped by on February 4th.

Constituent Services: Staff from Vin Gopal's Constituent Services will once again return to the Library. on Monday 3/13 from 1-4p.

Maker Day: Staff met to discuss the various Maker Day activities planned for March 25th. Staff is planning on hosting from 11 am - 1:30 pm with activities such as pancake cart, a widely popular button machine, a new sticker maker, and the Library's new Silhouette machine.

LTAR: This month's topic is Unifying America through Black History and Poverty Reduction and will feature guest speaker Dr. Dale Caldwell, a pastor from Plainfield's Covenant United Methodist Church.

Gymboree of Red Bank will revisit the Library in March.

Grants

Game On! Grant: The library is applying to the ALA Games and Gaming Round Table Grant to expand the Library's gaming collection. The submission will include video and tabletop games.

LibraryLinkNJ Level Up Your Library Grant: Candyce and Eleni are working on an application to the Level Up Your Library Grant to expand our Library of Things Collection to include a mix of recreational and practical items.

Relationship with the Borough

Story Walk: February's StoryWalk is *Be Who You Are* by Todd Parr.

RBPL in the Press

TapInfo: Continues to republish the Library's weekly newsletter.

- VIII. President's Report: Sara asks the Board to think about attending the annual library conferences, there is special pricing for trustee attendance.
- IX. Committee Report:
- a. Personnel: No meeting
 - b. Buildings and Grounds: No Meeting
 - c. Finance: Meeting on 2/16/2023 to go over details from the meeting Eleni and Candyce had with the Borough CFO. The Fringe benefit deduction has been resolved, and solution moving forward on a quarterly deduction will avoid this issue in the future.
 - d. Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee: No meeting
 - e. Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee: No meeting.
- X. Foundation Report: No meeting
- XI. Old Business: None
- XII. New Business: None
- XIII. Public Portion: Adjournment 7:01pm: Motion by Ann Ciabattoni, 2nd by Robyn Gedrich. Absent: Jared Ramage, Jim Whyte.

Respectfully Submitted,
Candyce Valor