

New Providence Memorial Library
377 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, New Jersey 07974

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
May 16, 2023

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Lisa Barfield
John Cronin
Jon Keaney
Stacey Maisch
Amy Mascarina

Lisa McKnight
Mark Ondris
Perry Scopelliti
Stephen Vidal
Angela Wilson

Welcome to Visitors, with instructions on when to address the Board

Friends Report

Approval of Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting

Communications – (Open)

Superintendent of Schools' Designee – Jon Keaney

Mayor's Designee – Lisa McKnight

Director's Report

Committee Reports

Personnel:	Amy Mascarina
Policy:	Mark Ondris
Sunshine:	Angela Wilson
Building & Grounds:	Stephen Vidal
Finance:	John Cronin

Action on Bills

Old Business

- ITS – Conti Room AV Installation

New Business

- Patron parking lot exit driveway proposal
- Library Building Design Options
- Book challenges

Motion to Recess to Closed Session, if necessary

Adjournment

New Providence Memorial Library BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 16, 2023

**Board of Trustees:
Roll Call**

Ms. L. Barfield*

Mr. J. Cronin*

Mr. J. Keaney

Ms. S. Maisch*

Ms. A. Mascarina*

Ms. L. McKnight*

Mr. M. Ondris*

Mr. P. Scopelliti

Mr. S. Vidal*

Ms. A. Wilson*

(* indicates present)

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the New Providence Memorial Library was held on May 16, 2023 in the Conti Family Community Room.

President Mark Ondris called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, and stated the following: We welcome visitors and invite engagement between New Providence residents and the library. This meeting agenda was set last week and will proceed as planned. Since we acknowledge that we have visitors with us tonight, we ask that you hold your comments until the end of the meeting, after our New Business. At that time, visitors will be invited to address the Library Board of Trustees, with a two-minute time limit to allow for others to speak. When you approach the podium, please state your name, and your street address before your comments. This meeting, including all public comments, must conclude by 8:30pm, as the library closes to the public at 8:30pm. No further comments will be heard after that time.

President Mark Ondris stated that adequate notice had been given in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act by both publication of the meeting schedule in The Courier News and the Star-Ledger and on the library's website, and the Borough of New Providence's website.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Sangeeta Benbow, President of the Friends, was in attendance.

FRIENDS REPORT:

Ms. Benbow said Friends had three new people attend their meeting last month. She announced that the procedures for purchasing museum passes and movie licenses for NPML have been streamlined: the Friends will make one lump sum payment to NPML and then NPML will coordinate the purchases directly. The Friends will review the museum and movie subscriptions annually.

Last month, they received \$5,100 in donations. Current cash on hand is \$11,900.

The current art display will be replaced by a community travel exhibit. The glass cabinet in the front of the library will showcase souvenirs from the NPML staff and Friends. Music events have been scheduled through spring-2024.

The Friends' murder mystery fundraiser, "Murder on the Titanic", will be held in November with food, alcohol and a raffle. They are researching details for permits. They hope to have 50 attendees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Board meeting was made by Mr. Cronin and seconded by Mr. Vidal. The minutes of the April 18, 2023 Board meeting were approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Board Secretary – (Open):

Superintendent of School's Designee – Jon Keaney: Ms. Maisch reported on behalf of Mr. Keaney. Salt Brook School did their annual three sisters garden. The World Language Club at Allen W. Roberts School hosted a cultural fair. At Senior Awards night, \$70,000 in scholarships were awarded. The New Providence High School held a senior breakfast. Middle school and high school will hold an art festival. The district is looking for judges to sit on panels for the 8th grade Capstone Project which addresses global issues. The New Providence School district has been named as a 2023 best community for music education.

Mayor's Designee – Lisa McKnight: Ms. McKnight reported that May is Mental Health month. The ribbons around town have a QR code which give you a random act of kindness to do. Store fronts are being painted by kids in an effort to "turn the town green". In an effort to raise awareness, businesses are participating by offering green items, such as green deserts and green hair. The Memorial Day Parade is May 29th. This is the first year that NPML will march in the parade. The Unity Fair will be held on June 3rd in Centennial Park. Street closures will continue throughout town as mains continue to be replaced.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Maisch announced that NPML attended the Green Fest for the first time in Centennial Park. The event was a hit. They brought books on environmental sustainability so that patrons could check out books at the fest. Four new library cards were signed up. The visitors that came to NPML's table were given coupons to NPML's Afterwords Bookstore.

During National Library week in April we collected donations for food items for the OLP Food pantry in exchange for fine amnesty. NPML had a prize wheel for giveaways including bookmarks and reading lights. There are paper stars posted on the circulation desk with quotes from patrons about what they like most about the library.

For Mental Health campaign, NPML has a kindness tree and mental health book collection which can be taken out via the honor system.

May 3rd was staff development day. Fourteen staff members visited eight libraries in the area. Staff took pictures and shared them afterwards during a working lunch in an effort to brain storm on ways to improve NPML. NPML is the only library that did not have small meeting rooms. Jimmy from Prestige Diner provided NPML with lunch on the house.

Ms. Maisch shared a patron quote about the April 27th presentation given by Joel Farkas on George Washington and Morristown: *"I really enjoyed last night's program, light humor, lots of interesting incidental facts, not like a history professor at all but quite engaging. Thank you all for all you do to brighten our lives".*

The AV project is now complete in the Conti room.

Mr. Cronin noticed that there were no students in attendance at the history events about George Washington or Ulysses S. Grant. He suggested to reach out to the schools to try to encourage students to participate, perhaps by earning extra credit.

Mr. Vidal made a motion to accept the Director’s Report as submitted. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel: There was no report presented.

Policy: There was no report presented.

Sunshine: Ms. Wilson announced that she met the staff at NPML and explained to them that Sunshine’s purpose is to recognize staff and be there for them when needed. She announced that Betty Metzger and Ellen Stevenson are willing to be ambassadors for the building project. Ms. Maisch thanked Ms. Wilson for coming in to meet the staff.

Building & Grounds: Mr. Vidal reported that we received consulting proposals from Rethinking Libraries and from David Vinjamuri of ThirdWay. Mr. Vidal, Ms. Barfield, Ms. Maisch and several staff met with David Vinjamuri and were highly impressed. If we choose to work with Rethinking Libraries we will need to hire our own architect, but ThirdWay comes with an architect. We intend to make a proposal recommendation at the June meeting. Mr. Ondris asked about the status of the wetlands survey, and Ms. Maisch said that per Marie from Colliers, a survey would cost approximately \$50,000 but Marie thinks the Borough may have old records so Marie will inquire directly with the Borough.

Finance: Mr. Cronin reported budget versus actual is ahead \$91,000 net year to date, and this is somewhat due to timing of expenses. We opened another CD, so now we have \$500,000 in CDs. The annual audit was complete as of December 31, 2022. We have an unqualified audit opinion, which is the best opinion we can get.

Mr. Cronin made a motion to accept the Audit Report as submitted. Mr. Ondris seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

ACTION ON BILLS:

Motion to approve the May 2023 Operating Account, Special Gifts Account, and Debit Card Account Bills Payable:
Seconded:

J. Cronin
M. Ondris

Operating Account	\$ 68,784.59
Special Gifts Account	\$ 2,619.88
Debit Card Account	<u>\$ 697.92</u>
Total	\$ 72,102.39

Motion to pay the May 2023 Operating Account, Special Gifts Account, and Debit Card Account Bills Payable was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Maisch reported that the AV equipment installation is complete in the Conti room.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Vidal stated that we can address some needed improvements, such as the patron driveway, as a first step in the overall strategic plan. Ms. Maisch showed the Board the patron parking lot proposal with traffic coming in the existing driveway and a new exit with a book return drop box on the driver's side. The zoning board needs to approve a curb cut and the DPW can do the paving. Mr. Cronin said the proposal looks good in terms of safety. Mr. Vidal said the exit may be close to the intersection of Academy Street. Ms. McKnight will speak to Bernadette Cuccaro and Keith Lynch to find out next steps.

Ms. Maisch announced that NPML received a request for reconsideration of library materials. Mr. Ondris stated that this pertains to Policy 4.2, and read the policy as follows:

POLICY # 4-2: MATERIAL RECONSIDERATION POLICY

Statement

The library seeks to provide a collection of materials which it believes will be of interest and of use to the entire community. The community includes a variety of ages, races, cultures, and ethnicities. Members of the community have different interests and religious and political beliefs. Within the library's budget we strive to obtain materials that will be read, viewed and listened to.

The library's professional staff relies on their education, experience, reviews, knowledge of the collection and the community to make decisions about purchases. As stated in the library's Collection Development Policy all materials are reviewed periodically for their interest and use to the community.

In the interest of protecting the individual's right to have access to materials, the library supports the following documents:

- The First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- The Library Bill of Rights – Adopted June 18, 1948, amended February 2, 1967, and June 23, 1980 by the American Library Association Council.
- The Freedom to Read Statement – Adopted June 15, 1953, revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.

Occasionally a library patron will question the inclusion of a particular item in the collection and may request that the library reconsider that item. This policy and the accompanying form detail how such reconsideration would take place.

Procedure

- A library patron who wishes to have the library reconsider an item will fill out the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form and return it to the director.
- Within two weeks of receipt of the form, the library director will collect at least three published reviews of the item.
- Within three weeks of receipt of the form, the library director will read/view/listen to the material and write an analysis of the item.
- Within four weeks of receipt of the form, copies of the item, published reviews, and the analysis will be forwarded to the Collection Review Committee of the library board of trustees with a recommendation.
- The Committee will read/view/listen to all of the materials, discuss the item under consideration, and meet with the patron asking for reconsideration within one month after receiving the materials.
- The Committee will recommend to the board at its next regular meeting its decision.
- The library director will communicate the decision of the board to the patron within two business days of the meeting.

Mr. Ondris stated the Collection Review Committee is an as-needed committee. He asked anyone who wants to sit on the committee to please let him know. Mr. Ondris will select those for the committee who he believes are best suited to be on the committee. The committee will consist of four people.

Ms. Maisch stated the title of the book for reconsideration is *Gender Queer: A Memoir* which can be found in the young adult graphic novels section as well as digitally via two sources. The form requests the book be removed entirely from the collection. The form was received on May 15th. Ms. Maisch will review by June 5th and present to the committee.

VISITORS:

Mr. Ondris invited the public to address the board and requested they state their name and address.

Donna Zane, 54 Brookside Drive, New Providence: She said that sex is addressed in the book in a manner that shows how it can be manipulative and not good. Although this book does not show good examples, it does show boundaries. Visually it is a graphic novel, however, any kid with a smartphone has access to social media and lots of content. This book is for a market that does not have a lot of books. She does not actually like this book, but nothing exists, and if this is what this particular market has it should be in the young adult section where they can find it.

Lori Wiesenfeld, 140 McMane Avenue, Berkeley Heights: She said that she agrees with what Donna said. It is good that there are options for different groups to see themselves in a book. It is helpful for readers to feel that there is nothing wrong with them, that there are other people out there like them. Books like this can be life-saving. Books like this can be helpful similar to how a doll with disabilities can be helpful to a child with disabilities. She is glad the book exists.

Mr. Ondris thanked the public for their comments.

RESOLUTIONS:

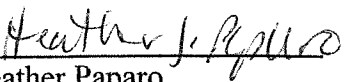
There were no resolutions.

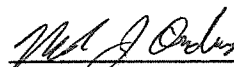
CLOSED SESSION:

There was no business requiring a closed session.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mr. Cronin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.


Heather Paparo
Bookkeeper & Administrative Assistant


Mark J. Ondris
President