

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF MONROE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regularly Scheduled Meeting June 15, 2016

A. Call to Order:

The regularly scheduled June meeting of the Free Public Library of Monroe Township Board of Trustees was called to order by President King. Those present: Ms. Samoyan, Mr. Garbowski, Mr. Pohler, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Betterly, Ms. Mead, Mr. Paredes and President King. Ms. King confirmed tonight's meeting is being held in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

B. Public Portion (Open/Close):

Ms. King opened the Public Portion of tonight's meeting. Present at tonight's meeting were Patrick McDevitt and Michael Sherfey, who are members of The Green Team which is a group of volunteers that meet regularly to identify, support and assist the community in reducing the impact on the environment. Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Monroe Township is registered and working towards becoming certified.

Toward that end, The Green Team of Monroe Township is proposing the creation of a community garden. They presented to the Board an aerial view (100' x 80') of a vegetable garden on the Library grounds. The area could be divided into gardens and maintained by volunteers who would adopt a section to be their own such as a family raising their own vegetables.

The Board expressed their approval but Mr. Pohler noted the land area proposed is not the property of the Library so they will require Township approval. Mr. Pohler advised of free plants and seedlings that could be available for such a project and Library gardening supplies that can be shared. Raised beds were proposed. Ms. Mead noted that she is a member of the Green Team and a similar vegetable garden at the Middle School produced 600 pounds of food for the community last year. Mr. McDevitt and Mr. Sherfey stated they will get the project planned out, meet with Township officials, and will bring a plan back to the Board.

C. Approve Minutes of May 2016 Meeting:

Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 2016 meeting was made by Ms. Betterly, seconded by Mr. Garbowski. All voted in favor.

D. Financial Reports:

Off the record to permit time for review of documents. Back on the record.

1. Approve Financial Reports for May 2016:

Motion to approve the financial reports for May 2016 was made by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Ms. Samoyan. All voted in favor.

2. Approve Payment of Vouchers for May 2016:

Motion to approve payment of vouchers for May 2016 was made by Mr. Pohler, seconded by Ms. Betterly. All voted in favor.

E. Director's Report:

Parking Lot Lights

Mr. Paredes reported the parking lot lights have been installed and provide light across a large area. Next year more will be added. He noted the cost came out of capital.

Surveillance Camera

Mr. Paredes noted that kids have been hanging out in the outside area around Room C. He said a camera is needed for this area.

Roof Inspection

Mr. Paredes reported that Pokey cleaned out the debris from the roof gutters.

Voting

As scheduled, Primary voting took place without any issues. It was discussed in November, voting will take place at the Library for the Presidential election. The staff will be working but the Library portion of the building will be closed to the public.

Democratic Executive Committee

Mr. Paredes said the Democratic Executive Committee met in Room C and were very impressed with the renovated area.

F. Committee Reports:

Garden Committee:

Mr. Pohler reported on the weed spraying effort. In particular, he has been working on pulling out poison ivy from the roots. He noted weeds have been out of hand this season.

Fundraising Committee:

Ms. Betterly reported that the concept of having multiple nights and multiple sites for the Library Nights dinner fundraiser was disappointing this year. She said some restaurants were hardly visited. She noted the multiple dates and sites appeared to dilute the idea of a Library Night Fundraiser. It was discussed to go back to the original one night event. Total returns are yet to be determined.

G. Old Business:

Audit Reports:

Motion to approve the Audit Reports with the revisions as outlined by Mr. Paredes was made by Mr. Pohler, seconded by Ms. Patterson. All voted in favor.

Bringing Art to the Children's Area:

The High School art teacher and art students will be painting trees on the pillars leading into the Children's area.

H. New Business:

1. Library Closing in November.

Motion to approve the closing of the Library for the Presidential Election voting was made by Ms. Betterly, seconded by Mr. Pohler. All voted in favor. It was confirmed the staff will be working that day but the Library will be closed to the public.

2. The Friends of the Library donated three Kindles as prizes for the summer reading program as well as \$1,000.00 for children's books, STEM programs, funds for Martha, and handouts for gift baskets at the front desk. The next Book Sale will take place in September. Board members expressed their appreciation for the Friends' fund raising accomplishments.

I. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Betterly, seconded by Ms. Samoyan. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Susanne McKee, Clerk Transcriber

Suzanne King, President
Board of Trustees