

**Mount Laurel Library
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting via Zoom
August 18, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 P.M.

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION: Provided by Ms. Sawyer

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW STATEMENT:

Ms. Sawyer stated that this meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was provided by way of the Burlington County Times, the Courier Post, and the Mount Laurel Sun, and it was posted in the library and on its website.

ROLL CALL:

Gina Acerbo - *absent*

Beth Demaio - *absent*

Noreen Duffey - *absent*

Susan Fortuna – present

Nick Moustakas – present

Fredda Sacharow – present

McKenna Samson - present

Stephanie Sawyer – present

Walter Stridick - present

ALSO PRESENT:

Ed Campbell, Esq.

Becky Boydston

Gayle McCormick

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Approval of July 21, 2021 minutes of meeting:

Motion: Mr. Moustakas, 2nd Ms. Sacharow

All in Favor

APPROVAL of BILL LIST and BILL LIST ADDENDUM:

Motion: Mr. Stridick, 2nd Mr. Moustakas

Roll Call: 6 yes votes

REPORT FROM LIBRARY STAFF:

Ms. Boydston stated that the library has been getting busier as life continues its slow return to pre-pandemic normality. In-library programs are being planned for September, although a close watch is kept on virus variants and health experts' recommendations for public safety. Masks are still strongly recommended for everyone in the public areas of the building.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Library Hours

Ms. Boydston explained her plan to resume full operating hours, 7 days per week, beginning after Labor Day. It is anticipated that students returning to classrooms may have increased need for library access.

RESOLUTION 2021-026: Authorization to Sell Surplus on Discover Books

This is a continuation of periodic efforts to remove outdated and otherwise unusable materials including books and DVDs from the library's collection since the last approval.

Motion to approve: Mr. Stridick

2nd: Mr. Moustakas

Roll Call: 6 yes votes

Surplus Auction

Ms. Boydston mentioned that the recent surplus auction was successful with most items sold, resulting in a few hundred dollars.

Overdue Fines

Although charges for printing and copying will be reinstated once normal operational hours resume, Ms. Boydston is still not in favor of charging overdue fines. Instead, she prefers to wait until the library's 2022 budget is drafted and she knows how much Mount Laurel Township appropriations to the library will be. The appropriations funding formula is based on assessed property values and that amount is not yet known for next year. In her opinion, overdue fines do not contribute significant revenue to the library's operating budget. In addition, although overdue fines have not been charged since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has not been an increase in waiting lists for library materials nor in items not returned. Overdue fines are thought to discourage library use by those who need it most and are therefore regarded as punitive. Often, patrons fear they might incur fines that they will not be able to pay so they feel discouraged from checking out materials. Several public libraries in large cities have done away with overdue fines and the movement is spreading to suburban areas. Ms.

Boydston would like to table the decision until November when 2022 budget numbers should be available for discussion.

Museum Passes

Mr. Moustakas inquired about which museum passes are offered at this time. Several are available for check-out but individual museums have varying rules regarding pandemic response, including hours of operation. Some places will not participate in library museum pass programs at all, notably Adventure Aquarium in Camden, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Philadelphia Zoo. Mr. Moustakas offered to speak with a friend at the Philadelphia Zoo to find out if Mount Laurel Library may, in fact, be allowed to purchase membership passes for patrons to use.

September Meeting

Ms. Boydston reminded Trustees that the next meeting will not take place on the usual 3rd Wednesday of the month, in observance of Yom Kippur. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 6:26 PM: Mr. Moustakas
All in favor