

Minutes from Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, March 28, 2022

Call to Order

Ann Minski, Board President, called to order this meeting of the Fanwood Memorial Library Board of Trustees at 6:40pm. Those present were Dan Weiss, library director, and trustees Ann Minski, Jane Frost-Guzzo, Jenn Coppock-Huegel and Ken Sommer. Kara Ascitutto, Jason Hagman, Philip Yap, Jeff Banks and Pat Plante were absent. Members of the public were present as well. Ann Minski stated, "I hereby announce that such be included in the minutes of the meeting that notice of the time, place, and day of this meeting has been prominently posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall and the Library, mailed to the *Times*, the *Press*, the *Star Ledger*, and *Courier News*, the *Patch* and the *Alternative Press* by last week, filed with the Borough Clerk and mailed to any persons requesting same in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act."

Public Comment received prior to opening the meeting:

Marge Mazaitis, a resident of North Avenue, stated that she is very much against this project. As a school librarian, she feels that students don't need the library because they have all the tools they need at home.

She stated that she tried to speak at the Planning Board meeting, but wasn't given the opportunity at a virtual meeting.

She disputes the fact that Antonios Panagopoulos (Borough Engineer) stated that there are no flooding problems in Fanwood.

The architects for the Library are looking at potential flooding issues to avoid excess runoff that would affect the neighbors.

Dan will be talking to the architects in the next few days and will specifically address the issue Marge raised. He will speak to Antonios about it as well.

Marge also noted that the neighbors don't know about this project.

Thena Rosahl, a resident of Pleasant Avenue, agreed with Marge's point regarding the lack of awareness regarding the library plans.

Pat Hoynes contacted Dan this morning. She told him that Mayor Mahr is ready to make the decision regarding the Library's move. Once we know where we are moving, we will send out a press release announcing the new location.

The Planning Board will be voting on the Library project parameters in mid-April.

Fundraising

Kathleen Smythe left us with some materials to run a fundraising campaign. Dan has lists of people who have donated to, used or supported the Library in the past. Her advice is to seek the biggest donations first, then appeal to the broader population.

Carol Campell suggested that we reach out to the business association.

\$3.5 million is coming from the state

\$3.5 million is being matched by the Borough.

Prices have gone up since the original plan due to timing and COVID-related setbacks.

Additional money is needed for furniture, technology, and artwork.

We currently have about \$79,000 accrued from various sources, + a surplus from 2020 and 2021 budgets.

Task List (in no particular order):

1. Come up with naming opportunities/ levels
 - a. Book Plates
 - b. Naming Rights
 - c. Pub Trivia Night
 - d. Tree Planted in someone's name
 - e. Golden Library Card (for a donations)
 - f. Escape Room
 - g. Quote Wall
2. Identify potential donors (list to be edited) (Dan will share for group edits)
3. Reach out to Susan Neuhaus for graphic designs (Dan)
4. Reach out to Kathleen Smythe for fundraising tips (Ann)
5. Design a "Discover Your New Fanwood Library" pamphlet
6. Direct appeal letter to large donors
7. Generate a list of exposure opportunities
8. Reach out to Kathy Wildstein (Carol)
9. Reach out to the College Club, Rotary, Junior Women's Club, etc.

Meeting Adjournment

Ann made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ken seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jenn Coppock-Huegel