



MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, July 17, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center

Members Present: Adam Goodman, Rachel Hayman, Denia Hester, Shawn Iles, Margaret Laurie, Benjamin Schapiro and Terry Soto

Members Absent: Ruth Hays and Vaishali Patel

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, Teri Campbell, Jan Bojda, Carmen Francellno, Laura Antolin, Jill Schacter, Jill Skwerski, Wynn Shawver, Connie Heneghan, John Devaney, Stan Azeem, Donny Westphal and Kim Hegelund

Presiding Member: Shawn Iles, President

Call to order/Declaration of Quorum- President Iles called the meeting to order when a quorum of Trustees was achieved at 6:34 pm.

Citizen Comment: J. Hughes spoke in support of the EDI Assessment, by DeEtta Jones and Associates, and the recommendation for a presence in the 5th ward. L. Keenan talked about how branches build community and reminded the board of the lasting importance of the EPL Friends' many contributions to Evanston residents..

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Bills and Payroll and Minutes of the June 19, 2019 Board Meeting-** Trustee Schapiro made the motion, Trustee Lurie seconded, and it was approved by voice vote.

Information/Communications: Together, We are the Library

- A. Oath of Office:** Trustee Terry Soto was sworn in as a first term Trustee. A brief introduction to Trustee Soto can be found [here](#)
- B. Asset-Based Community Development Presentation (ABCD) and Workshop (Ron Dwyer-Voss)** The ABCD approach consists of building and strengthening communities by utilizing current and potential assets of that community, rather than focusing on the needs and deficits. Utilizing an asset map for the workshop participants identified Evanston individuals, associations, institutions, physical spaces, exchanges and culture to recognizing connections and unrecognized assets. The asset map is used to untap the power of the community and catalyze the progress and growth of focused/specific needs you are looking to harness.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

- A. Joint Committee (Update):** EPL received 40 applications for the Racial Equity Task Force to which the internal EDI committee and Trustees recommend 15 for consideration. The task force was one of the recommendations put forth in the Equity Assessment presented by DeEtta Jones Consulting, and will be named prior to the next board meeting. The two board

representatives will also be finalized by then. Staff members will include Teri Campbell, Carmen Francellno, Jose Maldonado and Lorena Neal.

Library Director's Report (Distributed in Advanced): Director Danczak Lyons shared with the Board that 3,194 people have currently signed up for the Summer Learning Program and that the ballot boxes distributed around town have been successful in finding those that have not connected with EPL before. June held events with the Loft staff including the Teen PRIDE Part and STEM Camp. The Lifelong and Literacy Department held events surrounding Black Women's Health Awareness Day with 60 attendees, Fatherhood, a MENA discussion and 110 people attended the Jens Jensen event. Community Engagement staff were at ETHS offering technology classes for Spanish speakers with 17 attendees graduating the program. The Dementia Resource Center funded in part through a grant from RAILS can be found on the 3rd floor of the Main Branch.

Staff Reports:

A. Administrative Services: Assistant Director Campbell shared with the Board that hiring continues across departments. Operating costs are on budget, as is revenue collection and that progress on regular maintenance and capital improvements is on schedule.

Board Report: None

Board Development: RAILS will be providing training on August 3rd "RAILS 101 Trustee Training". Also, at the October 24th ILA Annual Conference there will be a "Trustee Day"

Unfinished Business:

A. Appointment of Committee members: Discussion continues on appointment of Committee members and will be voted upon at the next board meeting.

New Business: None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Benjamin Schapiro and seconded by Margaret Lurie. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Hegelund

Library Director's Report July 17, 2019

Updates:

Summer Learning:

Currently 3194 people have signed up for summer learning. The pilot of having ballot boxes at community businesses has been going well. 54 people have taken part so far. Kilwin's Ice Cream shop and Ebony Beauty Shop have had the most participants. We've found that some of the community members filling out slips have not connected with EPL before so this will be a great opportunity to engage with them. Three volunteers are helping out with picking up raffle slips from the different community sites.

Teen PRIDE Party

Teen services hosted a PRIDE party on Thursday June 27th filled with a variety of activities from art to dance, rainbow colored food and drinks, and brought in youth familiar to the LOFT and totally new patrons as well. The creation of this event was fueled by the energy and enthusiasm of young people who frequent the library and care about the LOFT as a welcoming, fun and community building space. Mayor's Summer Youth Employment staff, youth patrons together with staff planned, executed and attended the party. They incorporated art materials from previous summer LOFT programs in the creation of rainbow tree whisperers. They organized the activities and food for the party, and youth patrons brought decorations from home and decorated the space themselves. Around 30 youth came to the event, many of whom were new faces and youth from a variety of backgrounds and ages in the LGBTQai+ community. Each youth left with buttons, self created rainbow banner, and hopefully a better sense of community. The staff and youth who planned the party seek to continue to engage the new youth who attended by a possible LOFT GSA club and events geared toward LGBTQai+ youth.

Teen Services STEM Camp

Teen Services and D65 staff have completed three summer STEM camps, two LEGO Robotics camps and one Arcade Game Design. These camps are funded by a Motorola Solutions Foundation Grant and are offered in partnership with D65 and EvanSTEM. Black, Latino and students identifying as female in grades 6-8 have been targeted for these camps. Overall the camps have been successful based on attendance and learning outcomes. A total of 46 participants have attended the camps slightly exceeding our goal of 45 participants. Only 25% of participants said they agreed or strongly agreed they were excited about attending the Arcade Game Design Camp at the start, but 68% of them said they would recommend it to a

friend after completing it. We saw a similar jump with the LEGO Robotics Camp participants. 65% said they either agreed or strongly agree they were excited about the camp at the start, but 92% said they would recommend it to a friend. Additionally, 93% of Arcade Camp participants said they appreciated learning about game design and 50% appreciated having a better understanding of variables. 100% of Robotics Camp participants said they appreciated learning about designing and building a robot and 69% appreciated learning how robots use sensors to make decisions. We fully expect to see similar results in the remaining three camps.

Evanston Fatherhood Initiative program, June 13 (Heather Norborg):

10 people attended a screening and discussion of the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston's short documentary on their Fatherhood Initiative, which helps local fathers learn, connect and grow together.

Black Women's Health Awareness Day, June 15 (Susan McClelland):

Health & Wellness Literacy Librarian Susan McClelland welcomed over 60 attendees to the library's first "Black Women's Health Awareness Day" event. Keynote speaker, Lisa Peyton-Caire, presented an impassioned call to action on women's health entitled, "Empowering a Nation of Well Black Women: Why We Must. How We Can."

Sixteen health care and social service vendors provided information in the "Wellness Marketplace" and 9 lucky attendees won door prizes of spa gift bags of products donated by Whole Foods Evanston (1649 Chicago Avenue); Second Baptist Church of Evanston (1717 Benson Avenue); Yofresh Yogurt Café (635 Chicago Avenue) and City of Evanston Health & Human Services Department. Included also was a panel discussion on breast cancer awareness, infant mortality and reproductive health, affordable healthcare options and the impact of health care disparities on women and communities of color and fitness trainer, Siddiqui of ChicagoFit4Life led a spirited House Music workout session.

Jens Jensen in Evanston program, June 29 (Julie Rand):

110 attendees. In the morning, the library hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary film, *Jens Jensen: The Living Green* (54 minutes) followed by commentary and remarks from Robert Grese, author of *Jens Jensen: Maker of National Parks and Gardens*. In the afternoon, partner organizations led a bus tour to Jensen sites in Evanston and surrounding suburbs.

Summer Learning Program Update (Heather Ross):

This year's Adult Summer Learning prizes were all purchased from Evanston businesses, with EDI in mind: 16% Black owned; 16% Latinx owned; 16% Asian/Middle Eastern owned; 30% Women owned.

Small Business & Career (Susan Markwell):

SCORE mentoring: There were 25 mentoring sessions conducted at EPL by SCORE mentors during the month of June.

Career Counseling: We had 6 patrons meet with Darryl Grant for Career Counseling.

Test Proctoring (Jeff Garrett):

We proctored 9 tests for Evanston residents in June.

MENA (Lorena Neal):

On June 3, Northwestern professor Elizabeth Shakman Hurd presented a lecture called "How Can This Be Legal? Religion and the 'Muslim Ban'." The lecture was attended by 53 people.

Lorena Neal was asked to submit an essay about the 2016 incident at EPL in which books on the Qur'an were found vandalized before a MENA lecture to the upcoming "Censorship Stories from the Frontline" book, which will be published by ALA next year. Initial feedback about the essay has been positive, and it is now in the editing process.

Community Engagement:

ETHS Basic Tech Classes - Classes for Spanish-speaking adults with little or no computer experience. Bilingual and bicultural instructor. Theoretical and practical content. Learn how to fill out job applications, school forms, email, to navigate the internet, and much more. 17 attendees have received instruction from our Tech Trainer, Sergio Gonzalez. There will be a graduation dinner for those who have completed the course this Thursday, 7/18, 7pm at ETHS, Room S214.

Dariana, our Latinx Summer Intern (funded through a PLA grant), is working on a defined project, per the grant. She is creating a "Story House," which is an adult-sized cardboard "house" that people can enter. Inside, they will be able to listen to these narratives while also having access to LGBT+ resources/information, interactive questions/activities, free takeaways like stickers/buttons, and EPL resources that are easily accessible for residents and non-residents alike. She is also conducting interviews of Latinx Evanston residents' experiences in the LGBTQ+ community in an effort to give teens and young adults a voice to show other LGBT+ that they are not alone and create a safer space in the library and other community centers in Evanston.

The Dementia Resource Center is up and running! Funded in part through a grant from RAILS, the DRC is located on the 3rd floor, just outside the Falcon Room. Portions of the book collection related to brain health and memory loss have been processed with a purple spine sticker, thus indicating their new home location in the DRC. A new sign has been hung and work continues on processing take home kits, that will include a variety of puzzles, games and activities for those on the memory loss spectrum and their care partners to engage with at home.

EPL Resource Center will launch a pilot project at Family Focus, which runs through the end of the year. Funded through an ECF Responsive Grant and in partnership with Evanston Community Bank & Trust, COMPASS Knowledge Hub, and Family Focus, the aim of the Resource Center is to provide financial, health and legal services and programs that are created in partnership with residents based on input from the community. The YWCA’s Basic Money Management Class will run 7/22-7/23 as a “soft launch”, followed in September by an open house/BBQ event.

Assessments, Metrics and Initiative results:

Computer/Internet Use													
	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	FYTD
Main	3,841	3,957	4,355	3,814	4,053	4,415							24,441
North Branch	220	222	245	251	261	280							1,479
CAMS	353	374	441	403	403	443							2,441
Computer Lab	150	150	150	150	150	150							900
Overall Computer/Internet Use	4,570	4,703	5,191	4,624	4,879	5,144	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,261
Website Visits													
All Location	38,885	31,274	36,456	39,778	40,824	40,854							228,071
Wifi Users													
All Location	25,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000							135,000
Library Visits													
Main	33,808	35,603	40,450	34,716	37,922	41,479							223,984
North Branch	3,360	3,016	4,109	3,779	3,588	4,279							22,131
CAMS	2,944	2,907	3,473	3,577	3,507	4,194							20,602
Overall Library Visits	40,112	41,532	48,032	42,072	45,017	49,952	-	-	-	-	-	-	266,717

Upcoming events of Note:

Literary Librarian Heather Ross:

Mission Impossible 9: Faulkner Wrap-Up lecture will be Thursday, August 8 with Dr. Julia Stern from Northwestern returning to speak to participants. At this event we will also announce the selection for Mission Impossible 10!

Health & Wellness Literary Librarian Susan McClelland:

The “Wellness Wednesdays” series continues with

“Menthol Cigarettes: an African American health threat”, (July 24, Dr. Alicia K. Matthews), and “Medicare Education 101 series: Medicare basics” (July 17, Aug. 21 and Sept 18, Eric Slaughter)

Red Cross CPR/First Aid certification sessions hosted by HIRCULES student trainers will resume in the fall.

Business & Financial Literacy Librarian Susan Markwell:

Basic Money Management (Mobile Resource Center grant): Jill Skwerski and Susan Markwell are hosting the YWCA’s Basic Money Management class at Family Focus on July 22nd and 23rd to launch a series of programs which will make up our Mobile Resource Center grant project. We’ve begun brainstorming ideas for our second program, which will likely take place the first week of September, but as part of our goal for this grant, we would like to be as responsive to feedback from program attendees in the 5th Ward as possible. Therefore, we won’t have the topic for the next session solidified until after our first program.

Upcoming SCORE seminars: There’s been a date change for one of the SCORE seminars. **Concepts of Accounting** has been moved from Saturday, August 3rd to **Thursday, August 15th from 7:00-8:30 PM**. There is a flyer out with the dates and times of all upcoming small business seminars through the end of December. Once SCORE releases their syllabus for 2020, I will begin planning the next quarter’s worth of seminars.

Legal Librarian Lorena Neal:

Lorena Neal has been in contact with award-winning science fiction, fantasy & horror author Seanan McGuire about appearing for a Q&A with our Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Group. Our group will be reading two of Seanan’s books, one in September and one in October. Seanan has agreed to appear via Skype for our September 4 meeting. More planning for promotion and logistics will be forthcoming.

Excerpts from Patron feedback:

A man stopped by to say: “Do you take compliments here? I’d like to say how impressed I am with this library. (Looking at spending per north shore library) You really do more with less!”

Comments and Quotes from Black Women’s Health Awareness Day event:

"I enjoyed all the presentations-glad I took off work for this program! This event was very educational!" –Anonymous

"I enjoyed all the speakers' personal stories as related to the topics!" – Anonymous

"I enjoyed the transparency of the speakers and their passion to empower me for change. Looking forward to next year! – Anonymous

"I enjoyed the session on how to ask for help as a caregiver" – Arlene Jackson

"I enjoyed that there was one male speaker on the panel! -Anonymous





Email from one of the Jens Jensen Day organizers:

I think we will all agree last Saturday's Jens Jensen Gardens in Evanston event was a great success. I'd like to express my personal gratitude to the advisory committee for your active support, organizing skills, great suggestions and active support throughout the planning process and during the event itself.. The Highland Garden Club, the Garden Club of Evanston, the Evanston Public Library staff, and Kettelkamp and Kettelkamp Landscape Architects were all major contributors to this fun and informative event.

Great appreciation goes to Cary Lundin for her wonderful documentary "The living Green" and very special thanks to our key note speaker, Bob Crese who delivered an exceptional

presentation at the Library and went on to provide detailed commentary at the Shakespeare Garden, Mahoney Park and the Jens Jensen Garden at the Harley Clarke House. His interpretation of Jens Jensens designs made the day very special. Also very special was the attendance of Bruce Johnson, Jens Jensen's grandson and many other members of the Jensen family.

I heard more than once during the day that this is the type of community gathering that reminds us all how fortunate we are to live in Evanston and with such dedicated and generous people. Thanks for your contribution to this wonderful event.

Charles Smith

At the branches: June was a busy month. Besides offering our regular storytimes, book groups and various programs, we registered 464 individuals for Summer Learning. I have highlighted below two of our most attended programs:

Our Drag Queen Storytime at CAMS was brilliant thanks mainly to Bridget. About a hundred people attended. Several queer couples came with their children as did families who brought a non-binary child. Many expressed appreciation that we hosted this program and provided a welcoming space. They encouraged us to provide similar programs in the future, which we plan to do.



Melissa's window, honoring the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, helped advertise the event. Children participated by adding decorative shirts and smiling faces.



The following Saturday we hosted a *Pokemon* event which brought many children and parents (particularly grade school aged boys and their fathers) to CAMS for card sharing, a scavenger hunt, making Pikachu bookmarks, creating your own Pokemon character and trivia. Thanks to the Latino Outreach summer intern and our summer youth employee for helping. One family was so appreciative that they came back with flowers for Kerry.





Upcoming events the branches, staff will host two teen events of note: *An Escape Room* for teens in 6th grade at North Branch on July 18 and an opportunity for teens 13 and up to try single-player *Virtual Reality* games with Oculus Rift for FREE, by appointment only on July 20th. at CAMS.

National Able Update:

		June Total	Program Year to Date Total
ORIENTATIONS			
Evanston Public Library		14	183
Oakton Community College		20	253
TABE TESTING		9	111
ONE-ON-ONE RESUME ASSISTANCE		6	83
Workshops			
Job Readiness Training		12	88
JSWT (Oakton Community College)		35	317
CRASH COURSES			
Evanston Public Library		11	99
Oakton Community College		17	162
RESOURCE ROOM (NEW CUSTOMERS)		30	448
RESOURCE ROOM (REPEAT CUSTOMERS)		114	1240
RESOURCE ROOM TOTAL		144	2279