



# WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

Warren County Library Commission  
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P: 908-475-6320 | [www.warrenlib.org](http://www.warrenlib.org)

## Regular Session – June 27, 2019

The Warren County Library Commission met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on June 27, 2019, in the Library Northeast Branch at 40 US Highway 46, Hackettstown, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alice Mollitor, and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Present:	Alice Mollitor,	Virginia Rutledge
	Patricia Rokosz	Marilyn Barone
	Henry Newbold	Richard Gardner

Administration:	Maureen Baker Wilkinson, Library Director
	Jill Butcher, Assistant Director
	Meryl Barny-McGinley, Administrative Secretary

Guest/Public:	Adam Petroski, NE Branch Manager
	Approximately ten members of the public attended

Chairperson Alice Mollitor stated that notice of the meeting was properly advertised in the *Star-Ledger* and the *Daily Record*, and a notice was sent to the Warren County Clerk's Office.

## Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Barone, seconded by Ms. Mollitor, the Minutes of the May 23, 2019 regular session, were approved, motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Ms. Barone, seconded by Ms. Rokosz, the Minutes of the May 23, 2019 executive session, were approved, motion carried unanimously.

Communications – None

**Public Comment** – There were approximately ten members of the public attending.

1. Eric Schwarz – S. Plainfield, Middlesex County (Librarian, but is not representing his place of employment) asked the commission to consider rescheduling DQST.
2. Deidre – Hackettstown, said she is in support of having the program.
3. Robin Richard – Knowlton, stated that she is not against the DQST, but has an issue with their possible choice of books. Library Director, Maureen Wilkinson noted that the library would choose the books. Later on she also added another comment about her research concerning drag queen science stating that it may be “deeper than fashion”.
4. Melissa Brown – Independence, had some reservations concerning the DQST. She did not feel it was appropriate for a Preschool Storytime. She also mentioned that drag queen events is generally looked upon as an adult form of entertainment adding that it may be beneficial to get public feedback on program topics.
5. Martha – Belvidere, is in support of DQST. She feels it is a choice to come to the program or not.
6. Lauren White – Independence, mentioned that her husband David was at the last meeting, and expressed opposition to DQST. She read a prepared statement that the newspaper article misquoted and misrepresented their view. She asked where the Freeholders stand on this type of program. In response, Rick Gardner, the Freeholder Liaison to the Library, stated that the Freeholders appoint the Warren County Library Commission Members to make the decisions about these matters. Warren County does, however, support a stigma-free society.
7. Diane – Mansfield, expressed support for the program, noting it was a voluntary choice for parents to bring their child.
8. Kathy Waldstein – President of the Northeast Friends Group received an email that expressing disappointment over the cancellation of the program. She has also received several donations to fund future programming such as this (diversity).
9. A husband of another attendee felt that programs such as DQST provide a positive message to children.
10. Eric Schwarz added a comment – there needs to be programming such as this at different times, not just during Pride Month (June).

Public comment ended at approximately 6:15, and the majority of public attendees left the room.

**Old Business** - None

**Director’s Report** –

Please see attached Directors Report dated June 2019.

**New Business** - The Commission established two committees. Virginia Rutledge and Marilyn Barone will serve on the Policy Committee, and Patricia Rokosz and Henry Newbold will serve on the Directors Evaluation Committee. The Committees will meet as needed and report back to the full Commission.

**Closing Public Comment** - None.

**Executive Session** - Not required.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, on the motion of Ms. Mollitor, seconded by Mr. Newbold, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the Headquarters Branch.

Attested to:



Henry A. Newbold, Recording Secretary

HAN/mbm



# WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

## Directors Report - June 2019

The “Drag Queen Storytime” scheduled at our NE Branch, and its subsequent cancellation, has resulted in public comment on both social media and through email and phone calls and culminated in a newspaper story about the cancellation that was published in the Express-Times, and online.

This experience has started conversations about system-wide planning for similar events. Communication was identified as a major issue in the planning of the event, as library administration and staff at other facilities were unaware of the program until they began to get calls from the public. My absence from the library due to a family medical emergency exacerbated the situation as I was not available to address immediate concerns and questions and provide information to the Commission and County officials.

The library management team has started to work towards improvements related to planning for library programs, which include improved communication and better preparation for programs.

Summer Reading registration began this week. All locations are busy as we start the eight weeks of the program.

This is the first full summer at the Southwest Branch, and they are experiencing a high level of visits to the building. Staff has implemented firm behavior rules for the “Little Village” that address the age of children in the play area (under seven years old only), parental supervision and appropriate behavior. Additional issues with an adult with behavior issues (swearing at staff, hitting walls, and furniture) have also been addressed by staff.

The “Tough a Truck” event at the HQ Branch was well attended, and attendees were treated to a special visit by a medical emergency helicopter that landed in the field next to the library. A drone (owned by staff member & spouse) filmed the event and live streamed the images on a video screen at the event. Pictures can be seen on the library’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WarrenLib/> June 17<sup>th</sup> post), and the video can be seen at <https://youtu.be/XudpGlyVgBA>

The book return has been installed at the Shoprite in Washington. The return will allow members from the area to return their library material in a convenient location. The installation was delayed because of the required permissions from Shoprite. The public has started to return materials in the box, and our driver reports answering many questions about the box when he is there to empty it.

Use of the new tablet (with data plans) and hotspots have been circulating well. We currently have 16 holds on the 5 Hotspots and six requests for the four tablets. These devices circulate for two weeks, and they have unlimited data plans.

The library will be receiving a donation from the Donnelly family in memory of their mother Gladys who was a Friend of the Library. The presentation of the check (\$10,000) will be Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 at the HQ Branch and monies will be used to purchase children's books for the library system. An additional gift from one family member (\$2,000) was given to purchase materials for our Makerspace and support our homebound service.

The library is currently investigating options for a library app. Our current app was purchased with a grant from LibraryLinkNJ. It is no longer available for download from the App or Play Store. (The app still works if you already have it installed) We are getting numerous questions from members about a library app, as it is becoming more important as more people move to smartphones and small devices for online content.

We will be purchasing a new printer for the library that will be able to do banners, posters, and print on vinyl. (Saw at the NJLA conference) Staff have visited Sussex County Library to see their printer, and are very excited about the product. The printer will be available to the public and stored at the Makerspace (SW). We will be bringing the Commission a printing cost schedule for approval at a future meeting.

We will be installing new "people counters" in all branches this summer. The current counters used by the library are part of the security gates and use a beam across the aisle to count. They are inaccurate due to the limitations of the technology which only counts the number of times the beam in the aisle is broken. The new people counters use overhead cameras that identify "people," can distinguish the direction of travel, give statistics based on time of day, and archive the data. It can also give us separate statistics for children (using the height of the person). The information will be available through a web portal and will be another tool for managers to use when scheduling staff.

We anticipate a fall installation of RFID hardware (staff & self-checkout) at the NE Branch. Once this installation is complete, we will start tagging the collection at the CDH Branch.

The Library Construction Grant regulations will be in the public comment stage in July (last I heard), and it is estimated that applications for the grant will take place in the fall. Based on a State Library survey, there will be more project dollars requested than dollars available. (about double). There is

talk that the grants may be awarded in two rounds, and funding may be less than the 50% level of grants in 2002.

The need for the grant to repair the CDH branch is evident this summer. With no AC in the children's department, the humidity and temperature increases and circulation drops. Areas of the roof that were patched, are starting to leak again. We have started working with Stewart Fife, Library Interiors on the interior elements (furniture & shelving layout) and will have estimates to use for the grant.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Maureen Baker Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Submitted by  
Maureen Baker Wilkinson  
Library Director