



WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

Warren County Library Commission
2 Shotwell Drive, Belvidere NJ 07823
P: 908-475-6320 | www.warrenlib.org

Regular Session – May 25, 2023

Rev 11/16/23

The Warren County Library Commission met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on May 25, 2023.

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

- Present: Henry A. Newbold
- Marilynn A. Barone
- Patricia A. Rokosz
- John C. General
- Absent: Alice Mollitor
- Administration: Maureen Baker Wilkinson, Library Director
- Jill Butcher, Assistant Director
- Lori Ciesla, County Commissioner, Library Liaison

Chairperson, Henry A. Newbold stated that notice of the meeting had been properly advertised in the Star-Ledger and the Daily Record, and a notice had been sent to the Warren County Clerk’s Office.

Minutes

On motion by Ms. Barone, seconded by Ms. Rokosz, the Minutes of the April 27, 2023 regular session, were approved. All in favor.

Voting Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Newbold	X		
Ms. Barone	X		
Ms. Rokosz	X		
Mr. General	X		

Chairperson

Recording Secretary

Budget & Program Reports

There was one question related to an April program expenses, which was clarified with no further follow up needed.

Communications – None

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only - None.

Old Business -

New Business -

Revision to Collection Development Policy The proposed revision to the Collection Development Policy was discussed. This change is based on the webinar through the NJ State Library encompassing Attorney Lupinski’s recommendations. The only portion of the Policy being changed is the portion that relates to the Request for Reconsideration of Materials. It has been added that the individual making the request must reside in the service area, and clarifies the process to appeal a decision made initially by the Library Director. The appeal process would go to the Library Commission to be reviewed by the Commission’s Material Reconsideration Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will review and consider the complaint in terms of the Collection Development Policy. They will present a written recommendation report to the remainder of the Library Commission, who will vote on the subcommittee’s recommendation. The complainant will be notified in writing of the Library Commission’s decision. The date of this written communication will be considered the updated final decision and the final date of the reconsideration process for a period of three (3) years. If an appeal is not submitted after the Director’s decision, the three (3) year period will start as of the date of the Director’s notification. (The same titles will not be reconsidered for three (3) years.)

A request was made for two members to serve as a Subcommittee. Ms. Rokosz and Ms. Barone have agreed.

On motion by Ms. Rokosz, seconded by Mr. General, a vote was taken to approve the Amendment to the Collection Development Policy, as described above, now known as Resolution 2023-5.

Resolution 2023-5, the recorded vote is as follows: all in favor

Voting Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Mr. Newbold	X		
Ms. Barone	X		
Ms. Rokosz	X		
Mr. General	X		

Chairperson

Recording Secretary

Director's Report –

Please see the attached Director's Report dated May 2023.

Closing Public Comment -

Judy McDonnell and Liza Thomas, public guests joined the meeting, followed up on their requests for reconsideration for specific titles from the last meeting. Director Wilkinson stated that she had sent letters to Ms. McDonnell via email and US mail. The response to Ms. Thomas is delayed as her Resource Concern Form needs legal review by the County Attorney, due to the verbage used. They were given appeal forms that they could complete for submission to the Commission Subcommittee. Mr. General asked Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Thomas if they could state what their ideal solution would be with these library materials. They made suggestions related to identifying certain titles in the collection. Rev 11/16/23

Executive Session –Mr. General requested an Executive Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the regular session, on motion of Ms. Rokosz, seconded by Mr. General, the Regular meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.; the Executive Session began immediately following motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

Resolution No. 2023-6

On motion of Mr. General, seconded by Mr. Newbold, at 6:20 pm, the following resolution was by unanimous vote adopted by the Warren County Library Commission at a meeting held on May 25, 2023.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that this Commission hereby excludes the public in order to discuss such matters. The general nature of the subject to be discussed is as follows:

Matter relating to: a confidential legal matter

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Library Commission shall disclose to the public, as soon as practicable, the contents of the discussions after the final disposition of the matter discussed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of Ms. Rokosz, seconded by Mr General, The Executive Session of the Warren County Library Commission adjourned at 7:00 pm; motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. to be held at the Richard D Gardner Branch of the Warren County Library with a virtual link also available on the Library website calendar.

Attested to:


Henry A. Newbold, Chairperson

HAN/mbm



WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY

Director's Report - May 2023

In anticipation of a shutdown of the Catherine Dickson Hofman Branch for construction, the library has been relocating new and high-demand items, pictures, furniture, and equipment to other branches or storage. The removed items will not affect the operation of the library or the services it provides but will give us a head start on the project if it goes forward. The County Commissioners are expected to vote on whether to approve the project in June and if approved, construction would start in July. We have compiled lists of vendors and vendor providers we will need to contact if closed, and we have contacted movers for the price to relocate the collection and some contents.

We have started the roll-out of new digital signs in the branches. Our Marketing Librarian has created new content for the signs, and front-line staff reports positive feedback from our members. Once we have our new library calendar, we will generate additional content for the signs, such as lists of weekly programs, today's events, etc.

I have responded to six requests for reconsideration of library materials this month, and have followed up with legal counsel, the American Library Association, and New Jersey Library Association. The New Jersey Library Association assists libraries experiencing book challenges/banning and is available if requested.

News updates:

Legislation sponsored by state Sen. Andrew Zwicker would require public schools and public libraries to adopt policies that strictly prohibit "banning or restricting access to certain books". The bill would also require all public and school libraries to adopt standards in the "Library Bill of Rights" published by the American Library Association. Any school or library that does not comply, would be subject to the withholding of state aid. Sen. Zwicker says there has been an increase in efforts to restrict access to certain books, and "more than 80% of the book banning efforts target LGBTQ+ themes and people of color.

From NJ 101.5.com, Eric Scott, Published May 24, 2023

School librarian sues for defamation after NJ residents complain about "pornographic" books

April 26, 2023 by Anthony G. Attrino NJ Advance Media for NJ.Com

A longtime librarian at Roxbury High School in Morris County has sued a group of residents she says defamed her by falsely claiming her library has pornographic books and she is a child predator.

Roxana Russo Caivano, who has worked for the district for 15 years, says in court papers that at least four residents have publicly accused her of exposing children to inappropriate material, endangering the welfare of students and other activities considered criminal.

According to NorthJersey.com, the residents objected to the library having Maia Kobabe's graphic novel "Gender Queer: A Memoir" on the shelf along with other books critics have called sexually explicit.

Submitted by:



Maureen Baker Wilkinson
Library Director