

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

July 10, 2023, 6:45 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Attendees: David Bristowe, Sharon Duris, Janette Heil, Linda Noll, Beth Nachman, David Newman, Fauzia Shamim, Laura Arnhold-Library Director

Unable to Attend: Carole Keeney-Township Liaison

Minutes: Minutes were approved from the June 12, 2023, Library Board Meeting.

Adult Services and Director's Comments:

- A huge shout out to our youth volunteers for helping keep the library clean.
- Gardening workshop presented by Karrie Hontz, Penn state volunteer gardener taught new techniques for pruning and deadheading plants throughout the season to maintain good plant health and extend their bloom time as long as possible.
- We are super excited to announce "Public Speaking Class" for adults starting July 26, 2023
- Our book discussion group will meet the third Saturday of every month.
- A Meditation Workshop run by the volunteers from FalunDafa.org will be held the second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm in the Valley Forge room.
- If you own an iPad or an iPhone but have trouble using it, Ms. Sangeetha will be here at the library the first Monday of the month from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.
- Computer Basics Class for adults will be on a hiatus till the end of this year, instead Ms. Sangeetha will be offering topic specific in-person class during summer.
- We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Lynne Williams-Executive Director of Philadelphia Area Great Careers Group present seminars for job seekers every month.
- Our patrons are always happy to gather to knit at the library.

Children's Services:

- On Tuesday, June 13th, Ms. Stephanie had over thirty families join her in Freedom Hall for Baby Sign Language.
- On Monday, June 19th, the library hosted its summer reading kick-off celebration.
- Nothing gets better than stories and stretching and these little ones were yoga pros.
- Two college student volunteers led a science program for grades 2-4, with twenty-one children attending learned about flowers, plants, and made their own herbarium.
- Ten kids and their parents enjoyed reading their favorite books to August the Reading Dog.
- Miss Sue led two story times for PreK campers at Camp Beechtree.
- Eighteen students met throughout the last week of June to learn the basics of chess.
- Intermediate chess players also had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Ethan during this week.
- Thirteen middle school students attended the library's first Middle School Monday night of the summer, where we started a book discussion of Holes by Louis Sachar.
- Thirty-five families came together on Tuesday, June 27, for Family Story Time in the Little Theater.

- Twenty-five kids in K-8th grade and their parents enjoyed an Open Play Lego Build program in the Little Theater.
- Interactive storyteller Don Dougherty came to the library to share “A Not So Typical Campfire Story” too a crowd of almost one hundred people.
- Miss Sue led a fun Baby Story time with seventy people in attendance.
- Ms. Stephanie had fun Leaping into Science with eighteen families in Freedom Hall on Thursday, June 29th, for our science program.
- Miss Becky ran a Harry Potter themed Escape Room for middle school students three times.

Summer Reading:

- Kids are coming out in droves for all programming.
- Popular programs include Chess Camp, Science in the Summer, and a Not-So-Typical Campfire story with Don Dougherty.

Old Business:

- Update on County book challenges.
- Farmers Market-July 29, from 9am to 1pm.
- No August meeting.

New Business:

- Library closed September 2-4, for Labor Day Weekend
- Illinois & New Jersey Legislation-Preventing Book Bans
- ASL Interpreter request

Up Coming Events:

- July 29, 2023, Farmers Market 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- August 14, 2023, Library Board Meeting Cancelled
- September 11, 2023, Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- September 21, 2023, Citizen Boards, Communities, Commissions & Authorities Appreciation Social, at Upper Merion Township Pool 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- October 9, 2023, Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- November 13, 2023, Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- December 11, 2023, Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- January 8, 2024, Library Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.-Reorganization Meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Duris, Secretary