



Special Meeting
Russell Library Board of Trustees
Middletown Senior and Community Center Art Room
Monday, April 22, 2019

Present: Trustees Becker, Berlind, Duggan, Hadley (until 7:00), Nelson, Wisneski, and Zawisky; Library Director Burkey

Excused: Trustees Ford, Fulton, Murdock, Norwood, Russell

1. **Call to Order:** President Wisneski called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
2. **Public Session/Comment:** There were no members of the public present.
3. **Strategic Planning discussion:** As a continuation of the strategic planning session of April 10, Trustee Duggan handed out a review of the previous meeting and then led the trustees in an exercise to come up with five things to make the library even better, if there were no barriers. About 20 features were suggested. Each trustee chose five that would be priorities, and then voted in order to rank the five in order of importance. The five priorities were:
 - Space, including a larger performance area, reconfigurable spaces for meetings and study, a maker space, collaborative work spaces
 - Community collaborations and partnerships to allow for business mentorships, use of a printing shop, etc.
 - Civic engagement and community building through citizenship classes, ESL tutoring, programs with city leaders and government officials
 - A welcoming, lighter entry to the library with a central desk for information
 - Satellite library locations perhaps in schools, a physical presence on Main Street, and opportunity for all school children to visit the library

Challenges to reaching these priorities were discussed. Included were finances, competing city priorities, the need for advocacy and marketing, aging buildings, and the yellow building next door.

Instead of writing a mission statement en masse, it was decided to ask each board member to look at the priorities and write a two- or three-sentence mission statement to be distributed anonymously and discussed at the next regular board meeting.

4. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:30 p. m.
5. **Next meeting:** The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Berlind

Wendy Berlind, Secretary