

PAWLING FREE LIBRARY
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
November 10, 2022

Attendees: Amy Emke, Stephanie McLaughlin, Karen Franco, Heather Fidler, Megan Burlington, Wanda Rusiecki, Katy Fritts, Trinity Boscardin, Pat Duffy, and Donald Partelow (Interim Director)

Absent: David Potter

Guest: Chris Fisher

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 6:45.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion to approve by Amy, 2nd by Wanda. All in favor.

Director's Report: A copy of the report was provided to all trustees and will be posted on the Library website. Items discussed were:

- A big thank you from the Board to Donald Partelow for stepping in as interim director. Donald stressed that the entire staff has stepped up to help.

Move to approve the director's report by Amy, 2nd by Megan. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the report was provided to all trustees and will be posted on the Library website. Move to file.

New Business:

a. Finance Committee Update.

- Stephanie is stepping down as treasurer. Motion by Stephanie to appoint Trinity Boscardin as the new treasurer, 2nd by Megan. All in favor.
- Motion by Amy to remove Stephanie McLaughlin from, and add Trinity Boscardin and Chris Fisher (beginning Nov 21) to, all of the Library's bank accounts, 2nd by Heather. All in favor.
- The 2023 proposed budget will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.

b. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update.

- We are still awaiting the building permit for the ADA-compliant restrooms. Amy's meeting with the village mayor about the permit delay was positive.
- We have complied with all the requested modifications to the plans for the new Children's Room, and are awaiting approval of the building permit.

- The Donaldson Trust has given a \$33,000 grant for custom bookshelves for the Children's Room.
- c. Search Committee Update. Motion by Amy, 2nd by Wanda, to hire Chris Fisher as our new library director. The new director's first day will be November 21.
- d. Personnel Committee Update. The Committee recommends that the new staff schedule created by Tom Clemmons, Circulation Manager, be adopted. At Tom's request, the position of Circulation Manager will change from a full-time to a part-time position.
- e. Book Sale Committee Update.
 - The Holiday Book Sale will be held in the Annex December 2-4. Hours will be: Fri 5-8:30, Sat 10-4, Sun 11-2.
 - Board members will volunteer for set up, breakdown or to man the checkout table during sale hours. Set up will be Friday morning, Dec 2, and breakdown will be Sunday afternoon starting at 2:00 p.m. Katy will set up an online volunteer sign-up site.
 - Donald will post information about the sale on the Library website and will create a Holiday Sale flyer.
- f. Board Business.
 - Virginia West has resigned from the Board due to other commitments.
 - Amy Emke's five-year term on the Board is expiring. Motion by Stephanie to reappoint Amy as a trustee to another five-year term on the Board, 2nd by Wanda. All in favor.
 - Katy, Pat, and Wanda are on the Public Relations committee.
- g. Executive Session. Motion by Amy to go into executive session, 2nd by Megan. All in favor. Motion by Amy to come out of executive session, 2nd by Megan. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Amy, 2nd by Wanda. Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted by: Karen Franco, Secretary

Next Meeting December 8, 2022 @ 6:45 p.m.

Interim Director's Report

Our library board president, Amy Emke, announced that Christopher Fisher will be our new director, and Monday, November 21, will be his first official day as director of the Pawling Library.

On the morning of Saturday, October 29, a Meet & Greet was held at our library giving Chris, our staff and our board members the opportunity to get to know one another.

We thank our library's search committee for selecting Chris Fisher as our new director.

He comes to us with a great deal of experience and talents that will greatly benefit our library, and community.

November 21 will be here soon, and we look forward to Christopher Fisher's arrival. We will all be very happy to assist him in his transition.

On behalf of our entire staff, we wish you the very best Christopher Fisher. Welcome to the Pawling Library.

I would like to thank my coworkers who have aided me immensely during my time as Interim Director. I am fortunate to work alongside such good people who I look forward to seeing each day. You couldn't ask for a better team. Many thanks to Carla Biggs, Tom Clemmons, Lisa Geocos, Celinda Gomez, Julieta Leon-DeJesus, Rosemary Mancuso, Neena McBaer, Maureen Meltzer-McGrath, and Veronica Vertiz. You are all very special, and make it a pleasant experience for each and every person who enters our library. YOU are the reason they keep coming back.

Sincerely,
Donald Partelow
Adult Program Coordinator / Interim Director



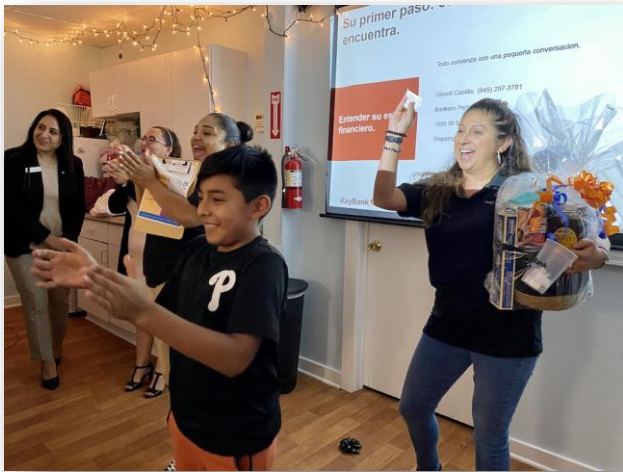
Programming

Donald Partelow, Adult Program Coordinator

Highlight of the Month: Financial Literacy Seminar

On August 30, families from our Latino community gathered for an information session at Pawling Recreation to discuss the types of programs they would like to see offered by the Pawling Library, ones that would be the greatest benefit to them. The majority of the people at this meeting were interested in a financial presentation. Through a partnership with Inginia Jackson and Madelyn Ortiz of Camino Al Éxito's Project for All, and KeyBank, a financial literacy seminar was organized and brought to the Pawling Library. This program took place on the evening of Thursday, October 27, in the Pawling Library's annex, and was filled to capacity with people from our Latino community. Our presenter, Gissell Castillo from KeyBank, spoke to the audience in Spanish during her PowerPoint presentation. The information she imparted was conveyed in a kind and respectful manner that was easy for the audience to understand, which they greatly appreciated. Topics from Ms. Castillo's presentation ranged from how to build credit, documents necessary to open a checking account, understanding a credit score, and much more. The program was scheduled to end at 8pm but extended an additional hour, as our presenter made certain that all questions from the audience were addressed throughout her presentation. Following the PowerPoint portion of the program, there was a raffled drawing, and one very happy person left with a large gift basket in hand. A virtual meeting with Inginia Jackson and Madelyn Ortiz will soon take place to discuss future programs that the Pawling Library will be scheduling to serve our Latino community. We thank our partners Camino Al Éxito's Project for All, KeyBank and Pawling Recreation for working with us to help and meet the needs of our Latino public. At the end of the night, we believe there was a message felt by every heart in the community room of our annex, and that message was: the Pawling Library cares, and is here for you.





Maureen Meltzer-McGrath, Young Adult Program Coordinator

October saw the fall teen programs get into full swing beginning with high school students attending a college essay workshop led by Kasey Stecher. Our Volunteers group grew to 18 members and they came up with a number of great community service project ideas. During our 2nd meeting, we focused on a project for the Dutchess SPCA. We are going to have a Giving Tree during the month of December to collect needed supplies for the shelter animals. The kids started making “ornaments” with the animals’ images to hang on the tree.

Tech Tuesdays has been very popular and the attendees have enjoyed exploring our Little Bits computer components and they even learned to make music with them. We had a number of Halloween programs throughout the month including our Spook-Tacular Nerf Party where the kids defended the courtyard from the

zombie invasion. They are already asking when we can have another Nerf battle. We also had a few spooky craft programs including a two-part one where they made a number of different black cats.

This month also saw the return of Dungeons & Dragons. The program (which will become a regular series in the new year) filled to capacity almost immediately and our Dungeon Master was wonderful. Ted Bushman has been doing D & D for ten years and incorporates his acting background into the story.

The Pawling Middle School sixth grade classes visited the Library to get library cards, learn what we have to offer, and participate in a STEM activity. The students had a great time building structures out of index cards that were strong enough to hold the stuffed Lolas.

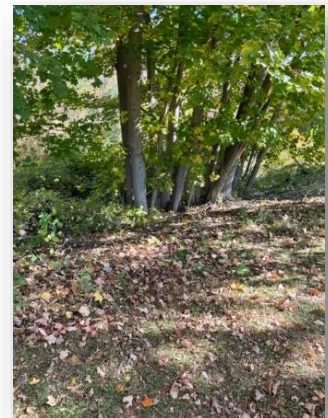
Finally, we were able to have the Stop the Invaders program for which we received the grant from the Adirondack Mountain Club to purchase the equipment. The program was held at Lakeside Park. Ryan Goolic McClean, Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager of the NY/NJ Trail Conference volunteered his time to present the local invasive plant species to a group of middle school students and explained how they adversely affect an area and the best ways to remove them. We then headed outside to find and remove the plants. The team worked for two hours clearing an area of the invasive plants. The kids were very proud of the results. We all learned a lot and we hope to return in the spring to continue the work.



Ryan Goolic McClean explains about invasive plants.



Rooting out the invaders.



The cleared area.



Hunting zombies

Will it hold Lola?



Tech Tuesdays!



Dungeons & Dragons!



Spooky Crafts!



Pizza & Games!

Neena McBaer, Children's Program Coordinator

- 1. Programming Overview:** There were four weeks of programming in October, including several special events and outreach activities.
- 2. THANK YOU Celinda!** Huge shout out to Celinda who filled in at the extreme last minute on 10/11, coming in at a time she does not usually work to help me with the Bubble Bus event when Maureen unexpectedly could not make it. In addition, Celinda took all the incredible photos of the event that are included in this report and more! She saved the day, as that event would have been really difficult if not impossible for me to do on my own.
- 3. Volunteers:** We were able to have more teen volunteers assisting in programs this summer than we have since the start of the pandemic. Though they are being reported on Maureen's monthly report, we had a group of 8 great volunteers who helped in various programs with kids ages 3-10 all summer long.
- 4. Grant programs: Make Me an Author:** On 10/15, we hosted a Book Launch party to celebrate the 12 children who published books as part of our summer "Make me an Author" program. This was also made possible by the YDP grant, and the celebration was lovely. At the end of the celebration, which featured snacks, displays and readings of the kids 'creations, and fun games, each child received a fully published copy of their book to keep!
- 5. Baby Bounce:** For the first time since the pandemic started, our Baby Bounce program on Tuesday mornings is filling up again! Families are eager to start introducing their 0-18 month olds to other children.
- 6. Outreach:** Pawling Recreation went all out for Halloween this year, and we contributed in several ways. For one, the library was featured as a stop on the town-wide scavenger hunt on Saturday, 10/29. This brought in a lot of foot traffic, including some who may not have visited the library before. Additionally, Maureen and I represented the library at the annual Trick or Treat Trails event, which was visited by 300 children. We handed out candy, shared program information, and met several members of the Town Council, who were eager to chat with us about ways the town, rec, and the library could work together to help service our growing Spanish-speaking community. They were very excited to hear we've filled our director position and plan to reach out to Chris later in the month about tackling this ongoing gap in town services.

Photos:

Photos 1-2: Some of our proud authors pose for photos with their books.

Photos 3-5: Bubbles! captured by Celinda Gomez





Tom Clemmons, Circulation Manager / Homebound Delivery Services Coordinator

Volunteer Program

During October, one volunteer provided shelving, shopping, weeding support, and other duties, as needed. Total: 7 hours.

The Grand and the Pawling Senior Friendship Center

During October, because of coronavirus quarantine restrictions still in effect, I was unable to visit The Grand or the Pawling Senior Friendship Center for story-time readings or book exchanges or book discussions.

Homebound Services

There are currently 6 active Homebound Services patrons. In October, I selected materials (books, magazines, or audio books) according to reading preferences and made 6 Homebound Service delivery/pickups – 3 trips to the Village of Pawling, 1 trip to Deerfield Ponds, 1 trip in the Town of Pawling, and 1 trip to The Grand, including 1 donation from the PFL book sorters of 1 bags of large-print books for The Grand's Book Cart.