

**Meeting of the Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee  
Held on February 8, 2018  
Spuyten Duyvil Branch Library,  
650 West 235 Street  
Pending Committee Approval**

**In Attendance:**

Marvin Goodman, CB8 - Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee  
Sylvia Alexander CB - Libraries Committee Member  
Judith Green, CB8 - Education Community Committee Member  
Tim Tureski - Spuyten Duyvil Branch Library Manager

**Committee Members Absent:**

Martin Wolpoff, CB8 - Libraries Committee Member  
Amy Joy Robateau, CB8 – Libraries Committee Member

The meeting began at 5:30 PM. The chair discussed the capital budget priorities of the committee for the fiscal year 2019. All items discussed had previously been approved for the fiscal year 2017 and the fiscal year 2018, but none had been accomplished.

These were:

- A) Spuyten Duyvil Branch Library: Funding for the library's expansion. The requests are carried over from the 2017 capital requests. These include a general interior renovation and expansion, a boiler and HVAC Unit replacement and ADA upgrades. This is an ongoing NYPL project with prior, current and future year commitments. The Agency agrees with this request, but will accommodate it in part only.
- B) Riverdale Branch Library: Funding requests for renovation and upgrades. These requests include the HVAC Unit replacement, an ADA upgrade of the bathrooms and a full interior renovation. NYPL is in favor of this project, but will need to continue to work through the city's budget process for needed funding for these expense budget costs and capital costs. The agency agrees with this request, but no current funding is available.
- C) Van Cortlandt Branch Library: Funding is requested for the relocation of this branch library, including furniture, equipment and ADA compliance to the site on 3874 Sedgwick Avenue. The NYPL has requested more information from our community board about this request. The committee agreed that these items need to go before the full board.

The chair introduced Tim Tureski, the library manager of the Spuyten Duyvil Branch Library to inform us of the various programs offered by this library branch. Tim presented us with this year's fiscal year statistics that show that current visits to this library branch are about 77,000 with this year's book circulations totaling almost 107,000. There have been 419 program sessions with almost 10,000 attending.

Among the programs for young children, there is a toddler Time and a Toddler Play Time, as well as a weekly Lego Club, a monthly Family Literacy workshop for ages 2 to 5, and a coloring table , with crayons, for youngsters to use freely. For older children and teenagers there is an arts and crafts event every Wednesday a techie Thursday featuring Chromebooks, and a Friday Chess Club and Friday films. For adults, there is a Saturday Cinema, which is either a classic film or a recent film. There is a book talk, led by former librarian Fran Einkenel and a citizen's preparation talk, also led by her. Valerie Kaufman conducts a movie talk. There is a book club where all participants read the same book for a book discussion. At times, there are special programs. Currently there is a creative writing workshop, and a guest story teller for children and a program for children ages 5 to 12 called "Designing a Dream CITY" with Lego blocks and piece being used by the participating children. The children's room now has additional area rugs, different size activity cubes a play tunnel and soft cushions. A fish tank and new tables are to be added.

Among the current library problems: (a) overcrowding in the library, especially immediately after school, (b) no electric table to recharge all devices, (c) a shrinking library staff to service all programs.

When questioned about interactions with the local schools, Tim noted that these programs exist in all local schools, public, charter and private. Schools arrange for extended time frames for borrowed books. The library uses the NYPL inter-branch system to accommodate requests for multiple copies of a book. There is a program for children to be able to borrow books for an extended time without incurring penalties.

Tim noted that the library has books in many different languages, especially for adults, including reference books and bilingual dictionaries. The library is expanding the number of books in Asian languages, especially Chinese. Civics classes are conducted for adults.

We were taken on a tour of the library and shown where all the facilities are located. We were shown the area where physical expansion will hopefully take place. We were shown the bathrooms where hopefully an expansion can be made s changing tables for infants can be included.

The meeting ended at 7:30PM. The next meeting will be on March 8<sup>th</sup>, time and location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marvin Goodman, Chair  
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee