



Raritan Public Library

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December 21st, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Raritan Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 pm by R. Rispoli, Board President. R. Rispoli read a statement that the meeting was duly publicized (including notices which were sent to the Courier News and the Star Ledger) and that the meeting was called pursuant to provisions from the Open Public Meeting Law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Rispoli, K. Seifert-Ethier, B. Doorly, A. Goetsch, C. Torres, M. Pryll, A. M. Mead, J. Fidacaro, and M.J. Paese, Director. Absent: S. Forte

R. Rispoli led the flag salute.

MINUTES: K. Seifert-Ethier requested the following correction to the Committee Reports section of the November 16th Meeting Minutes. "The trustees agreed a strategic planning sub-committee will be formed in January. The sub-committee will bring back to the Board what we want to do going forward." C. Torres made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 16th, 2017 Board Meeting with the correction, A. Goetsch seconded the motion and a roll call was taken. All trustees approved except J. Fidacaro and A. M. Mead who abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A. M. Mead made a motion to approve the December bills, A. Goetsch seconded and the roll call was unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director reported that Raritan Library now has a free subscription to ABC Mouse, an interactive learning program which focuses on phonics, math, art and music for young children.

The floor in the kitchen and the landings in the hallway have been retiled with vinyl by Barrett Construction.

A retired veteran from Branchburg asked if he could have a non-resident card at a reduced rate. The Board agreed to give free cards to veterans provided they show proof of their service. This will be added to the Patron Policy.

The men's toilet needed to be repaired again. Both toilets have had to be fixed several times this past year. Re-doing the bathrooms is on the Capital project list for 2018.

The Raritan Police have begun to make daily walkthroughs of our facilities.

The Board discussed safety and policy breaking issues of two men who recently frequent the Library. R. Rispoli agreed to contact the Library's lawyer regarding this matter.

B. Doorly will be honored at the Unico 2018 Americanism Awards Dinner on January 16th.

Upcoming Programs/Events:

Tuesday, January 9th: Adult Movie Matinee: “The Glass Castle”

Thursday, January 11th: Evening showing of “The Glass Castle”, a biographical film about Jeannette Walls.

Tuesday, January 23rd: Gentle Chair Yoga with Breda Ryan-Blake

Thursday, January 25th: *The Other Mentalist*: an interactive demonstration of telepathy and mind games performed by local resident, Tom Kennedy

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: R. Rispoli reported that he will be getting quotes for remodeling the women’s and men’s bathrooms. Removal of light snow, which occurs on weekends when the Library is open, was discussed. Since the DPW does not work on Saturdays, the Board must explore other means of clearing walkways. A suggestion was put forth to ask the Library’s maintenance worker if she would consider this job.

The Board agreed they would like to see the police walk through the building twice a day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: On hiatus until sub-committee forms in January.

B. Doorly reported that Raritan’s 70th Anniversary will take place in 2018...the celebration most likely will be in May. 1948 pictures and articles have been scanned. There is a nice photo of the Library in the new Municipal calendar.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board President reported that to replace the carpeting for the front desk area a deposit needed to be made to place the order for the July installation. He asked for a motion to approve the purchase of \$21,500 for the job. A. M. Mead pointed out the Board’s fiduciary responsibility to consider this cost. It was questioned whether the Trustees need to approve this now. The Board decided to put this motion on hold. Instead, they would look at alternatives and revisit this in 6 to 12 months.

Ann Marie Mead made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm, J. Fidacaro seconded and the Board unanimously agreed. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on January 18th at 7:00 pm in the Library.