



Raritan Public Library

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February 16th, 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, B. Doorly, S. Forte, K. Seifert-Ethier, A. Goetsch, M. Pryll, C. Torres, J. Fidacaro, Mayor Alternate, A. M. Mead, B/R School District Rep, and M. Paese, Library Director.

During the meeting, Mayor McMullin swore in Christine Torres as new trustee. The trustees welcomed her to the Board.

R. Rispoli led the flag salute.

MINUTES: A. M. Mead made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular January 19th, 2017 Board Meeting, S. Forte seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A.M. Mead made a motion to approve the February bills including Capital expenses, K. Seifert Ethier seconded and the roll call was unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director stated that a historic plaque was recently installed on the brick wall of the stack room. This plaque gives a brief description of our historic building and lists two organizations that funded our renovations.

The Director handed out promotional materials on hoopla, the digital medium. She reviewed the advantages of hoopla, read a list of other libraries which use the digital medium and discussed pricing with the trustees. J. Fidacaro made a motion to purchase hoopla, A. Goetsch seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous. The Board also agreed that a borrowing cap should be placed on the digital items per month, per patron.

The Director presented the 2017 proposed budget to the Board. She also gave the figures for actual operating expenses and Capital expenses for 2016. S. Forte made a motion to approve the proposed budget, J. Fidacaro seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous.

The Director reported that Helen Esmond was hired to replace Jess Wells, who resigned.

Upcoming Programs/Events:

February 28th: Marc Black's music program was rescheduled to this date due to an inclement weather cancellation.

February 28th: Matinee of the movie "Loving".

March 14th: Matinee of the movie "Arrival". (The Director remarked that the matinees are becoming a popular venue at the Library.)

March 25th: Makers Day (Statewide Event): The Library is hosting 6 programs geared for all ages. A folded brochure will be distributed at the next Board Meeting highlighting the various programs. K. Seifert-Ethier asked if we would capture the metrics for this day.

The Director remarked that, in March, library staff would be attending a Seniors Meeting at the Borough to promote programming for their group.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Update on Paver Program: The Library still has pavers to sell. These will be installed in the spring.

Upgrading Library Status: R. Rispoli reported the upstairs rooms have been painted. After the building is complete, the painter will work on refinishing the outdoor gazebo and benches.

R. Rispoli asked A. Goetsch and J. Fidacaro to begin working on employee raises and the Director's review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

K. Seifert-Ethier gave a quick overview of the strategic plan (including its 4 goals) and the work plan to the Board and the new members. She reviewed what so far was done on the goals and what remains to be accomplished.

Bruce Doorly wrote an article in the March edition of the Breeze about the new community room.

The Grand Opening Committee set a date and time for the opening: March 11th at 1:00pm. They will work with the Director on various details of the event.

OLD BUSINESS: R. Rispoli stated he will proceed with the landscaping of the back yard. He will get pricing from several landscape architects and bring the information to the next meeting.

A.M. Mead made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm, M. Pryll seconded and the Board unanimously agreed to end the meeting.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, March 16th, 2017 at 7:00 pm.