



Raritan Public Library

54 East Somerset Street
Raritan, New Jersey 08869
Phone: (908) 725-0413
Fax: (908) 725-1832

May 18, 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, S. Forte, B. Doorly, J. Fidacaro, C. Torres, M. Pryll, A. M. Mead, and M.J. Paese, Director. Absent: A. Goetsch.

R. Rispoli led the flag salute.

MINUTES: B. Doorly made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular April 20th, 2017 Board Meeting, C. Torres seconded the motion. All approved except R. Rispoli, S. Forte, and A. M. Mead who abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A.M. Mead made a motion to approve the May bills including Capital expenses, M. Pryll seconded and the roll call was unanimous. The trustees asked if the Library's bookkeeper could provide more detail about the bills she pays and that she send them the register report with more lead time for review prior to the monthly Board meetings.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director reported that she performed all the staff evaluations. She asked the full-time employees to create three goals which will be evaluated in 2018.

The Director stated that she applied for an 'intern partnership' with the Rutgers History Department. If we are accepted, Rutgers will provide our Library with a history student who could help with the scanning of the old Raritan Valley Newspapers and other historic projects at our Library.

The Director stated that a person is requesting permission to reserve the new community room for a group who want to show a film "From the Ashes". The Board of Trustees agreed they cannot honor her request.

Our Library is now hosting a Shakespeare Reading Group which will meet once a month to discuss various Shakespearean plays.

Rooster Restoration refinished the fold down table in the front hall. A glass top is being made to protect it.

The Director is waiting for a third quote to refurbish the wooden flooring. Alpine Flooring and Whitehouse Flooring have provided quotes so far.

The 3rd grade students from JFK Elementary visited our Library in May. Kristen Brooks received a note of appreciation from the students and teachers. The Kindergarten class is expected to visit on June 5th.

The digital medium hoopla was launched on May 8th. The Library will host an instructional class in July, even though connectivity is very simple.

Upcoming Programs/Events:

June 6th at 2:00 pm: Adult Matinee of La La Land

June 8th at 6:30 pm: Adult Classic Movie "On the Town"

June 16th and June 17th: A two-day book sale run by the "Friends of the Library"

June 20th at 2:00 pm: Adult Coloring Class

June 29th at 6:00 pm: Outdoor concert: "A Tribute to Elvis Through the Years" by Jim Barone. Funded in part by our "Friends" Group.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Status of Library Expansion: R. Rispoli reported that the library's landscaping work is almost complete. The Board discussed possible future capital improvement projects, such as digitizing old microfilms, updating the Library's catalog system and purchasing Chromebooks for the children. A future capital improvement plan will be created.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: K. Seifert-Ethier discussed content ideas for the upcoming meeting with the Mayor and Borough Council person. She will also work on setting a date in June for the meeting.

B. Doorly will get pricing for digitizing old microfilms to add to our history kiosk.

OLD BUSINESS: The trustees reviewed the Meeting Room Policy draft and made some other revisions to it. A room application for usage must be created. Until the policy is finalized, any requests for use of the new room need to be approved by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: C. Torres stated she attended a trustee workshop and shared some things she learned with the Board. She also asked about an ALA membership. The Director stated she would contact the organization about membership. C. Torres and K. Seifert-Ethier participated in the Trustee Short-Take Webinars.

A.M. Mead made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, M. Pryll seconded and the Board unanimously agreed to end the meeting.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15th, 2017 at 7:00 pm.