



Raritan Public Library

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October 20th, 2016

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, R. Zack, A. Goetsch, J. Fidacaro, A. M. Mead (7:19 pm) and M.J. Paese, Director. Absent: S. Forte, K. Seifert-Ethier and M. Pryll.

R. Rispoli led the flag salute.

MINUTES: A. Goetsch made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular September 15th Board Meeting, B. Doorly seconded the motion. All approved except R. Zack who abstained. J. Fidacaro made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 15th Executive Session, A. Goetsch seconded the motion and all approved except for R. Zack, who abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A. Goetsch made a motion to approve the October bills including Capital expenses, R. Zack seconded and the roll call was unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Director reported that she briefly attended a special Reading Program along with Donna Lapadula at JFK School that evening. Trustees, K. Seifert-Ethier, A. M. Mead and M. Pryll, were also in attendance. The theme was "Reading Superpowers". The Library had a table set up with flyers in both English and Spanish. Students were given information on how to sign up for a library card and had a chance to win a gift basket. It was a nice event.

The Director reported that the Library received its annual State Aid check.

The Library had to buy a new hot water heater (which was an emergency purchase) since the old one started to leak.

The Director gave the Trustees statistics on Museum Pass Program usage. R. Rispoli stated that the Director should make the final decision as to what passes are chosen.

The Trustees were handed a copy of the inscription that Dan Jaxel wrote for the plaque which the County will install inside our Library.

The Director thanked Jane Fidacaro for planting mums under the Library sign and for giving tours of the Frelinghuysen Home during the Somerset County Weekend Journey. The Library also hosted a program on soap making that weekend.

Upcoming Programs/Events:

Tuesday, October 25th: Matinee movie: “Me Before You” based on the book by Jo Jo Moyes.

Thursday, October 27th: a one-man play of “Frankenstein” will take place. Each attendee will receive a copy of the magazine “MidJersey” which the Library is featured in. The article is called “Things That Go Bump”.

Thursday, November 3rd: Crafters will paint a Thanksgiving Tray with instructor, Irene Mortko.

Thursday, November 10th: Elizabeth Michaels of the American Historical Theatre will portray “Rosie the Riveter” This program is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Monday, November 21st: Michele Liana will present a class on making a deco mesh candy cane wreath.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Status of Library Expansion: R. Rispoli reported that Edge Property Maintenance is installing siding on the outside of the new addition and inside electrical work is being accomplished.

Status of the Library Electrical System: The Borough will soon dig out the front yard of the Library so that PSE &G can bring in the new electrical lines to the building.

Treasurer Bonding Issue: R. Rispoli contacted the Library’s lawyer and learned that the Trustees are all bonded under the Borough’s Insurance Policy.

Handicapped Walkway: R. Rispoli wants to do more research on the expenses involved and on the methods of applying a special coating to the handicapped sidewalk. In addition, three broken pieces of sidewalk need to be replaced. This project will be put on hold until next spring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: B. Doorly reported that the e-newsletter was sent to 700 people.

B. Doorly stated that he did not find a rotating screen for the kiosk monitor. The monitor will be a 27 inch all-in one computer which will be mounted to a wooden desk. A.M. Mead offered to go with B. Doorly to Best Buy to negotiate the best price.

OLD BUSINESS: J. Fidacaro will be taking the lease agreement to Mayor McMullin.

NEW BUSINESS: The Trustees voted to amend the Employees’ Manual regarding Library closings. Previously discussed, the Trustees agreed that the Library would no longer follow the inclement weather closing procedures of the BRSD but instead would follow the Borough’s closings. R. Zack made a motion to amend the Employees’ Manual, J. Fidacaro seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous.

R. Rispoli stated how important it is to come to Board Meetings to achieve a quorum.

A.M. Mead made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm, R. Zack seconded and the Board unanimously agreed to end the meeting.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17th at 7:00 pm.