



Raritan Public Library

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June 20th, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Raritan Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:04pm by K. Seifert-Ethier, Board President. K. Seifert-Ethier 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: K. Seifert-Ethier, J. Fidacaro, B. Doorly, A. Goetsch, D. Esposito, M. P. Gausz, A.M. Mead (BOE), and M. Paese, Director. Absent: U. Agrawal.

K. Seifert-Ethier led the flag salute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:06pm, D. Esposito made a motion to enter executive session and seconded by A. M. Mead to discuss a second letter received by the Board from the previously banned patron. The trustees agreed that the letter should be sent to the Library's attorney. A. M. Mead made a motion at 7:18 pm, seconded by M. P. Gausz to return to regular session.

MINUTES: M. P. Gausz made a motion to approve both the regular and executive minutes of the May 16th, 2019 Board Meeting, B. Doorly seconded the motion. All trustees approved except A. M. Mead and D. Esposito who abstained.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- The Library's audit was done. A draft should arrive soon for review. The Board's Finance Committee will review the audit before it is presented to the other trustees.
- Automatic Communications performed its annual alarm inspection. All systems tested well and are in good working order.
- A part-time IT person, Shreya Gurjar, was hired to replace R. Wales.
- New toilets were once again installed in both public bathrooms. Monks replaced them free of charge.
- The Director recommended updating the Library's Patron Policy and adding active/retired veterans to the list of people who can obtain a free library card. The trustees will soon receive an updated copy of the policy and will vote on it at the next Board Meeting.
- The NJLA Conference in Atlantic City had interesting and relevant topics such as safety and security, patron confidentiality and promoting libraries through social media.
- An upcoming trustee training course is available on September 30th at the Cherry Hill Public Library. The Director mentioned that these sessions are particularly worthwhile for new trustees.
- The Library received a Certificate of Appreciation for partnering with the BRHS Work Study Team.

- The Director discussed with the trustees three capital projects to consider accomplishing in the near future. They include replacing worn carpeting in the Circulation area, treating the cedar roof shakes to prolong the life of the wood, and adding some furniture to the audio/classics room. She received another quote from Langhorne Carpet and presented it to the Board. The Trustees stated they will decide on this project within 6 months. A. M. Mead mentioned getting a buzzer for the front door. A. Goetsch asked about installing the Library sign in the front yard.
- Alex Salerno recently passed away. He was a trustee and board president of our Library for many years. The Borough and Library are flying our flags at half-mast in his honor.

Programs/Events:

Thursday, July 11th at 6:30pm: “The Beatles: The Beaginnings” with Liverpool native, Paul Groom

Tuesday, July 16th at 2:00pm and 6:30pm: Two showings of the new film Apollo 11

Tuesday, July 23rd at 2:00pm: Chair yoga with Bridget Ryan-Blake

Thursday, July 25th at 6:30pm: Sensory Gardens with expert gardener and horticultural therapist, Linda Klug

Monday, July 29th @ 6:00pm: Brendan will be running a button making class for teens

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: K. Seifert-Ethier explained a charge from the Library’s attorney on the monthly bill list. The charge resulted from a conversation between our attorney and the Borough’s attorney. The conversation was about the banned library patron. A council member was asking for the information. In the future, our attorney should ask the Board before conversing with the Borough’s attorney. A letter will be sent to the Mayor and Borough Council seeking a replacement for the Mayor’s spot on the Board. This will help keep the governing body informed of our actions. The Friends of the Library will be holding a book sale on June 21st and June 22nd. Konstanze reminded the Board to respond to the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. The Director will present updated statistics in circulation and other metrics at the next Board meeting. No decision was made to cancel the summer board meetings. Konstanze also mentioned that there are training opportunities for the Trustees.

TREASURER’S REPORT: A. Goetsch made a motion to approve all June bills including capital expenses, A. M. Mead seconded and the roll call was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:15pm, a motion was made by A. Goetsch to adjourn the meeting, J. Fidacaro seconded and the Board unanimously agreed. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on July 18th, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Library.