

BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes May 8, 2014

Present:

Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary
Marcela Deauna, Treasurer
Thomas Neats, President
Charles (Jim) O'Dowd, Trustee Emeritus
Laurie Phipps
Nelson Reynoso
Nancy Sierra, Vice President
Lucille Tendler
Mayor Norman Schmelz
Christopher Tully, Council Liaison
Mary Riskind, Director
Evelyn Rizzo, Administrative Secretary

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Notification of Public Meeting

President Neats read the report on public notification of this meeting.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to accept the April 10, 2014 minutes as circulated. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Mrs. Chittum, seconded by Mr. Reynoso, to approve the May 2014 amended bill list. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence

An invitation to march in the Memorial Day Parade was received and discussed. The Board decided that the Library will march again this year.

Mayor Schmelz mentioned that someone from the Barrier Free Committee complained that she has to have someone help her up the ramp to come into the Library. She asked for a railing. Mrs. Riskind assured the Mayor that there are railings and the building is ADA compliant. Further discussion followed regarding the possibility of moving the handicapped parking to the Anderson Avenue side of the building where the ramp is not as long.

President's Report

Mr. Neats thanked the Board members who attended and contributed funds to make the staff appreciation breakfast possible. The Board was also able to interact with the staff at the breakfast.

Old Business

No report.

BCCLS and Friends

Mrs. Tendler attended the BCCLS scholarship committee meeting to interview possible recipients. The successful candidate will be announced at the System Council meeting on May 15th.

The BCCLS Advocacy Committee is sponsoring an orientation, in conjunction with the New Jersey Library Trustee Association on May 14th, 6:30 pm at the Closter Library. Registrations must be submitted tomorrow.

The Friends received a \$500 check from the Tommy Fox's Dining-To-Donate fundraiser. The Friends also sent out invitations for their "Don't Come to a Tea Party" fundraiser.

Building & Grounds

No report.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed. Councilman Tully mentioned that the Library's budget was approved at the last council meeting remaining at the 2013 level of funding.

Personnel

No report.

Policy

No report.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet on Monday, May 12th to discuss *Remembering Philippine Independence* scheduled for Sunday, June 8th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The Committee is also starting to plan for the September 28th Hispanic Heritage Month program and another program in October for Filipino Heritage Month. Discussion followed about reviewing whether goals and objectives of the Library's Strategic Plan are being met. A tracking system needs to be designed.

Director's Report

Mrs. Riskind reported that the Library has received a \$500 donation from Steve Deitmer in support of the Summer Reading Club as he has done in the past.

Mrs. Riskind will attend a grant writing workshop sponsored by the State Library. Increasing income from grants is also a goal of the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Riskind mentioned that Peter Pipines passed away. Sid Breyer's son, Barry, was in town and came to the Library earlier in the week. Both Peter Pipines and Sid Breyer were former Trustees who were instrumental in building this library and the start of BCCLS.

Trustee Education

There is a \$3 million request in the legislation (A967/S234) to increase State financial support for public libraries. Since the recession in 2011, state aid for libraries has dwindled across the state making it increasingly difficult for libraries to provide the technological, educational and cultural services that their community deserves. A suggested letter was distributed to send to legislative representatives expressing their support of this legislation. Different ways the Board can advocate for libraries was also distributed.

Old Business

Mrs. Riskind received additional bids for the security camera system and forwarded them to the Borough. Steps for how to proceed were discussed.

New Business

Mrs. Phipps thanked the Board for the flowers she received after her accident.

Mayor Schmelz mentioned that his father and brother enjoyed the *Dear Bergenfield* program that was held at the Library. Letters were read that had been written home from soldiers who served in World War II.

The New Jersey Library Trustee Institute is to be held Saturday, September 13th at the Sheraton Eatontown. Mr. Neats attended the last Institute and recommends this program if anyone is available to attend. Registration will be on-line only this year.

A copy of the letter that BCCLS sent to the County Executive regarding an increase in the grant BCCLS receives from the County was distributed. This grant supports reciprocal borrowing and resource sharing. Any support in favor of this grant will be much appreciated.

Public Portion

No report.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mayor Schmelz, seconded by Ms. Sierra to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Rizzo, Recorder for
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary