



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Conducted virtually via Zoom

Minutes
February 11, 2021

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Dr. Nelson Reynoso, Vice President
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Laurie Phipps
Sarah Shaffren
Thomas Lodato, Council Liaison
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Notification of Public Meeting

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

Minutes

Motion by Ms. Cruz-Betesh to accept the January 14, 2021 meeting minutes.
Councilman Lodato seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Absent at time of vote
Dr. Reynoso - Yes
Ms. Shaffren – Yes

The motion carried.

Bills

Motion by Ms. Chittum to approve the February 11, 2021 bill list.
Dr. Reynoso seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes



Ms. Phipps - Yes
Dr. Reynoso - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Absent at time of vote

The motion carried.

Public Portion

Library staff members Kara Gilbert and Robert Huber expressed their concerns regarding the potential of reopening the building for public visitors.

Correspondence

No report.

President's Report

President Neats reported he has done a few walkthroughs of the building and can see the staff is busy. Staff members he spoke to also expressed their concerns regarding current COVID numbers. President Neats reported he attended a virtual meeting of the negotiating team with the attorney. President Neats will be attending a "Protecting our Children" webinar with Ms. Ballo hosted by the Borough's insurance provider. President Neats reminded the Board that the Friends of the Library is running their annual appeal. President Neats reported he is in communication with Ms. Ballo regarding weather related closures.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

Friends' mailer went out.

No report from BCCLS.

Building & Grounds

Ms. Ballo reported that the feedback on our application for the State's Construction Grant for the YA renovation was included in the Board packet.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

No report.

Policy

The revised Library of Things lending policy was presented and discussed.

**Motion by Ms. Phipps to approve the revised Library of Things Policy.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes



Ms. Phipps – Yes
Dr. Reynoso - Yes
Ms. Shaffren – Yes

The motion carried.

Director's Report

Ms. Ballo presented the Board with a quote for a space audit of the building. The Board supports having a space audit completed but requested Ms. Ballo research other vendors and options. Discussion followed concerning the Library's current service plan and comments received via social media. Ms. Ballo recommended that the Library continue with curbside service and revisit reopening at the March meeting. President Neats commented on the refund we will be receiving from the New Jersey State Library's recent purchase of Brainfuse.

Trustee Education

Ms. Ballo and Ms. Cruz Betesh reported on a New Jersey State Library webinar they attended giving an overview of how Mahwah Public Library changed their funding structure via public vote. Discussion followed. President Neats discussed upcoming virtual Trustee education opportunities.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

Applications for the 2020 Lucille Tandler Community Service Award were discussed. In light of the challenges in 2020 due to COVID, the Board has decided to extend the search for candidates until March 31st. Nominations for candidates who significantly helped the community in 2020 will be encouraged. The Board directed Ms. Ballo to continue with curbside service for the time being. The next Board of Trustee meeting will continue to be held virtually on March 11, 2021.

Adjournment

**Motion by Ms. Phipps to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Dr. Reynoso - Yes
Ms. Shaffren – Yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.



Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chittum

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary