



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Conducted virtually via Zoom

Minutes
June 10, 2021

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary
Marcela Deauna, Treasurer
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Laurie Phipps
Natalie Rivas
Thomas Lodato, Council Liaison (arrived 8:00 pm)
Christopher Langschultz, Alternate for Superintendent of Schools
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Notification of Public Meeting

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

Oath of Office

President Neats administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Rivas who was appointed as Trustee of the Bergenfield Public Library.

**Motion by Ms. Deauna nominating Ms. Laurie Phipps as Vice President for the remainder of 2021, replacing Dr. Nelson Reynoso who resigned from the Board.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.**

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Minutes

**Motion by Ms. Phipps to accept the March 11, 2021 meeting minutes.
Mr. Langschultz seconded the motion.**



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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Abstain
Ms. Deauna - Abstain
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Abstain
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

**Motion by Ms. Deauna to accept the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes.
Mr. Langschultz seconded the motion.**

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Abstain
Ms. Rivas - Abstain
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz – Yes

The motion carried.

Bills

**Motion by Ms. Chittum to approve the June 10, 2021 bill list.
Mr. Langschultz seconded the motion.**

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Abstain
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Public Portion.

No public comments.

Correspondence

No report.



President's Report

President Neats reported that he has made a few visits to the library since reopening and the staff seem enthusiastic about welcoming patrons back. President Neats reported that the negotiating team discussed several minor revisions with the CWA Union regarding the contract. President Neats and Ms. Ballo met with Ms. Rivas, the newly appointed Trustee of the Library Board. President Neats shared that a nominee for the Lucille Tendler award, TJ Lee, recently passed away.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

Ms. Ballo reported that the Friends had their first in person meeting since going on hiatus last year. Their focus currently is on the town wide garage sale registration. President Neats shared that he hoped new Trustee Rivas could serve in a liaison role with the Friends group.

Building & Grounds

Ms. Ballo reported that NJSL Construction Bond Act Grant application for the renovations for the Teen room has been submitted. Ms. Ballo advised that while the HVAC work through the PSE&G Direct Install program has been completed, there have been some issues with the duct work in the ESL wing that may require a long term fix at some point.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

Ms. Ballo reported that she will be reaching out to the Personnel Committee over the summer regarding a title change for a staff member who is finishing her Master's degree.

Policy

No report.

Director's Report

Ms. Ballo reported that the Children's Room staff are receiving training on updated story telling best practices and techniques. Ms. Ballo reported that the NJ State Library received grant funds via the American Rescue Plan Act and is hosting a competitive grant program for public libraries. Ms. Ballo would like to apply for funding for the exterior storage lockers at the Library.

Trustee Education

No report.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

Ms. Ballo reported that the CWA brought to her attention that due to Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, some full time staff would be short changed a paid holiday. Ms. Ballo requested the Board grant an additional floating holiday to those staff members. The Board was in agreement and President Neats requested that the additional floating holiday be used prior to December 1st.



Motion by Ms. Cruz-Betesh to approve the 2021 – 2023 Supervisory and Non-Supervisory Contracts negotiated with the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 1031 who represent the bargaining employees of the Bergenfield Library.

Ms. Phipps seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz – Yes

The motion carried.

Ms. Ballo requested guidance from the Board regarding current mask mandates and recommended following Borough guidelines concerning changing COVID restrictions. Discussion followed. The Board decided to continue with the current mask requirement and revisit the issue at an emergency meeting on July 15th. The Board agreed to return to pre-pandemic hours after Labor Day and to delay renting out meeting rooms until September.

Motion by Ms. Phipps to approve Resolution 2021-12 to apply for American Rescue Plan Act grant funds for public libraries.

Ms. Phipps seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Chittum to go into Closed Session to discuss an ongoing patron situation at 8:46 pm.

Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes



Mr. Langschultz - Yes
The motion carried.

**Motion by Ms. Chittum to return to open session at 8:58 pm.
Ms. Deauna seconded the motion.**

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

**Motion by Ms. Phipps to extend the suspension for patron discussed in closed session from the Library premises for another 18 months, effective June 23' 2021.
Ms. Deauna seconded the motion.**

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes

The motion carried.

Adjournment

**Motion by Mr. Langschultz to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Phipps seconded the motion.**

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

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Ms. Deauna - Yes
Mr. Neats – Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes



The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chittum

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary