



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Conducted virtually via Zoom

Minutes
February 09, 2023

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Laurie Phipps, Vice President
Natalie Rivas
Christopher Langschultz, Alternate for Superintendent of Schools
Thomas Lodato, Council Liaison
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 12, 2023 meeting minutes.
Ms. Rivas 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 – Absent at time of vote
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes

The motion carried.

Bills

Motion by Ms. Chittum to approve the February 9, 2023 bill list.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh 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 – Absent at time of vote
Mr. Neats - Yes



Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes

The motion carried.

Public Portion

President Neats introduced Adult Programming Coordinator, Devon Allan. Mx. Allan requested Board feedback regarding a potential after-hours Drag Queen Bingo program for adults (18+). Discussion followed. The present Board members showed unanimous support for this program and encouraged Ms. Ballo to work with the Borough's Stigma Free Committee as the event will take place during Pride month.

Ms. Mindy McDonald shared a presentation about the strategic planning process with the Board. Ms. McDonald is volunteering her professional services to assist with the committee work. Discussion followed. President Neats appointed Ms. Cruz-Betesh as the Strategic Planning chair.

Correspondence

Room Requests:

- A request was made by Tara Tully to host a Kindergarten Girl Scout meeting in the Friends room, every other Wednesday night during the school year from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Motion by Ms. Phipps to approve the Kindergarten Girl Scouts troop meeting room use request.

Ms. Chittum 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
Ms. Rivas - Yes

The motion carried.

- A request was received from Girl Scout Troop #97137 to use the facilities for bi-weekly meetings on Saturdays during the school year for all of 2023.

Motion by Ms. Phipps to approve the meeting room use request for Girl Scout troop #97137.

Ms. Cruz-Betesh 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
Ms. Rivas - Yes

The motion carried.

President's Report

President Neats reported he has done a few walkthroughs of the building and spoke with Ms. Ballo regarding some issues with the statistics report that have been identified. President Neats shared that he has been in discussion with George Armbruster of the Friends Group about a joint fundraiser with the Lions Club of Bergenfield.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

No report.

Building & Grounds

Ms. Ballo discussed the quote for the service contract renewal for Assa Abloy to maintain the exterior door mechanism. The contract renewal is for \$3,190.27, which is an increase of \$148.

**Motion by Councilman Lodato to contract with current vendor Assa Abloy.
Ms. Rivas 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
Ms. Rivas - Yes

The motion carried.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

No report.

Policy

No report.

Director's Report

Ms. Ballo readdressed providing digital board packets for the Board's consideration. Discussion followed. Board will continue with paper packets for now. Ms. Ballo advised the Board about a patron's recent violation of the Library's code of conduct. This individual has had their privileges previously suspended due to recurring misbehavior. Discussion followed.



**Motion by Ms. Phipps to suspend the patron from the Library premises for 2 years.
Mr. Langschultz 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
Ms. Rivas - Yes

The motion carried.

Ms. Ballo discussed the current library procedure that restricts juveniles from taking out video games and movies based on ratings. In light of so many self-service options within the library, this procedure is essentially moot. Discussion followed. Ms. Phipps suggested suspending the procedure for a one-year term, then sunset out if there are no issues or complaints. The consensus of the Board was to agree with this suggestion.

Trustee Education

President Neats shared information about Robert's Rules of Order regarding approving minutes. President Neats also shared information about upcoming BCCLS training sessions.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

Applications for the 2022 Lucille Tendler Community Service Award were introduced.

The Board is planning to hold their March 9, 2023 meeting in person.

Ms. Cruz-Betesh thanked the Library staff for their participation in the school district's MLK Day of Service program.

Adjournment

**Motion by Mr. Langschultz Cruz-Betesh to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Chittum 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
Ms. Rivas - Yes



The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary