



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes
April 10, 2025

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Laurie Phipps, Vice President
Jamie Orlando, Treasurer
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Marcela Deauna
Thomas Lodato, Council Liaison
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

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

Notification of Public Meeting

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to accept the March 12, 2025 emergency meeting and March 20, 2025 regular meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Ms. Deauna, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve the April 10, 2025 amended bill list. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Portion

No report

Correspondence

No report

President's Report

President Neats congratulated Ms. Ballo on her nomination to the Executive Board of BCCLS. President Neats shared construction progress he has noticed on visits to the library. President Neats also noted RWB students are still actively using our facility despite the YA room being unavailable and felt it is part due to Ms. Lester, Head of Youth Services and her working with them.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

Ms. Ballo shared a BCCLS workshop flyer regarding first amendment audits.

The Friends will be hosting a Town Wide Garage sale September 27th & 28th.



Building & Grounds

No report.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed

Personnel

Ms. Ballo discussed an upcoming retirement and proposed adjustments to the organizational chart and job description as a result. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to approve the modified job title, Full Time Lending Services and Acquisitions Supervisor, and description and authorized Ms. Ballo to advertise for the newly modified position. All in favor. Motion carried.

Policy

No report

Director's Report

Ms. Ballo shared that the next all staff meeting will be on May 7th and historically this has been the Staff Appreciation breakfast and the Board is invited to attend. Ms. Ballo discussed that we have the opportunity to broker a relationship with Bergen Community College and their federal work study program. This would run on a semester to semester basis with no cost to us and CWA was fine with this temporary help being assigned to the library.

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to authorize Ms. Ballo to move forward with the Bergen Community College Federal Work Study agreement. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Education

President Neats shared information from the NJ Office of the Attorney General regarding a multistate lawsuit against the current administration over cuts that could affect the operations of the NJ State Library.

Old Business

Ms. Ballo provided an update to the progression of the construction for YA Room project. Construction is set to wrap up in early May and the furniture is expected to be delivered in early June.

Ms. Ballo provided an update to the Elevator. Discussion followed regarding the age of the elevator and the possibility of requesting capital funds from the Borough in 2026 to modernize. It is not feasible to repair the elevator due to its age and part availability.

Upon further discussion, the Board agreed the \$25,000 allocated to the library from the grant the Borough received will be put towards furniture purchases related to the CPF Grant project.

New Business

President Neats introduced resolution # 2025-13 authorizing the 2nd payment to BGD Contracting.

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve Resolution # 2025-13 authorizing 2nd payment related to the contract with BGD Contracting for the Young Adult room project. All in favor. Motion carried.



Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sorah Shaffren

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Sorah Shaffren, Recording Secretary