

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Longport

March 16, 2020 at 5:00pm

Call to Order: President Roy Law called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Flag Salute

Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was sent to the Press of Atlantic City on November 27th, 2019 and sent to the Current on November 27th, 2019. Notice of this meeting was also posted on the Library's website and in Longport Borough Hall. Official Action may be taken at this meeting.

Recording of Attendance: President Roy Law, Secretary Elizabeth Peterson-Ricci, Treasurer Patricia English, Member Dolores Wilson, Member Erin Schiavo, Member Joanne Clayton, Member Damon Tomassi, Mayor Nick Russo and Library Director Ricky Gerhardt in attendance.

Absent: Carl Tripician, President Board of Education

Old Business: Approval of minutes from February 10th, 2020. Elizabeth Peterson Ricci motioned for approval of minutes, Erin Schiavo seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Public Comment: There was no public comment

New Business:

President's Report: Roy Law, Board President, thanked Ricky Gerhardt, Library Director, for being flexible, fluid, and an excellent communicator as it pertains to the global pandemic Covid-19. He remarked that just earlier that day, the President Donald Trump remarked this could last through summer. Flexibility and fluidity as it pertains to the Library programs and offerings will be essential as we navigate this unknown time.

Treasurer's Report: Patricia English, Treasurer, reported we had a beginning balance of \$448,316.95. We had cash receipts of \$164.88, and cash disbursed of \$18,873.03. We had an ending cash balance of \$429,608.80.

Dolores Wilson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Joanne Clayton seconded the motion. All in favor none opposed.

Personnel Committee Report: The personnel committee in conjunction with Ricky as proposed by Erin Schiavo (chairperson) propose to eliminate the position of Library Page. Erin Schiavo motioned to eliminate the position. Nick Russo seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Director's Report: Ricky started off his report by thanking the Board of Trustees and his staff for their flexibility and ability to make adjustments in light of the crisis and evolving nature of the Corona Virus.

Library Statistics: During February the library held 38 programs with 330 attendees. The collection statistics were steady with 517 items circulated, 7 new members added, and 303 digital checkouts. The website continues to draw interest and traffic.

Spring Programs: March Food and Film was cancelled due to concerns and caution about the Covid-19 pandemic. Yoga signups are open for spring. Concerts continue to draw good crowds and the next concert is scheduled for March 27th. Many programs and their status will come under review as the Covid-19 pandemic evolves and changes are needed due to closures and government directives.

Two additional authors have been added for the summer author series: Jane Kelly and Lauren Grodstein. They are wonderful people and very supportive of libraries and their programming. Borough Hall remediation has been completed and Commission meetings are being held in chambers again.

An architect has been contacted and will be putting together a schematic design as per our application for the Library Construction Bond Act. We are awaiting a commitment from the Borough in regard to the space for the next 20 years.

The first New Jersey Library Report has been completed with the State Library.

Two new Databases have been added and are seeing usage already. The NY Times and Mango Languages are particularly well received with the current pandemic and remote learning and resource sharing at its prime.

Overall the Library Staff, Community and Board has been very understanding and flexible navigating these uncharted waters of a global pandemic and closures etc.

Resolution 2020-6: A resolution authorizing the Free Public Library of the Borough of Longport to Apply for the project grant entitled the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act

This is contingent upon a 20-year renewal of the Borough of Longport's commitment to the Free Public Library of Longport.

Nick Russo motioned to approve the resolution. Elizabeth Peterson Ricci seconded the motion. All in Favor, none opposed.

Resolution 2020-07: A Resolution Awarding a Professional Service Contract for Architecture Services

William McLees, architect, is from Somers Point NJ who has experience in library design. Elizabeth Peterson Ricci motioned to adopt the resolution, Dolores Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Resolution 2020-8: A Resolution Approving a Policy in Response to a Public Health Situation Covid-19

A policy recently created to address the public health crisis facing our nation.

Nick Russo motioned to adopt the resolution. Erin Schiavo seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Bill Pay List: The bill pay list was review and presented by Patricia English, Treasurer. Patricia English, noted that she saw the Westlaw Subscription still on the bill pay list and Ricky Gerhardt, Library Director, indicated that it is still on the bill pay list and this would be the final payment of that subscription service. Erin Schiavo motioned to approve the bill list, Joanne Clayton seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Public Comment: No public comment

Adjournment:

Elizabeth Peterson Ricci motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:23, Erin Schiavo, seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.