

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees
Reorganization Meeting
January 9, 2023
Minutes**

Present: Jimmy Alvarez, Jerry Buccafusco, Bruce Blattner, Kathleen Casserly, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Maria Rondinaro, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Michael Schappert, Sharon Russell-Fowler (by Zoom)

Absent: None

Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido

Mr. Hallman read the notice of the meeting.
Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag.

January reorganization

Mr. Hallman presided over the swearing in of the board members who stood and took the oath of office.

Ms. Hutchinson read the names of the newly confirmed members and their term expiration dates:

Jerry Buccafusco (Mayor)	December 31, 2023
Maria Rondinaro (Mayor's Liaison)	December 31, 2023
James Alvarez	December 31, 2023
Kathleen Casserly	December 31, 2023
Michael Schappert	December 31, 2024
Darleen Havens	December 31, 2025
Sharon Russell-Fowler	December 31, 2026
Patricia Hutchinson	December 31, 2027
Johanna Roper-Robinson	December 31, 2027
Bruce Blattner	December 31, 2027

Mr. Hallman then presided over the election of officers for 2023.

Mr. Blattner nominated Sharon Russell-Fowler as President of the Board. Ms. Russell-Fowler accepted the nomination. A voice vote was unanimous and Ms. Russell-Fowler assumed the office of President. However, in her physical absence, Mr. Hallman continued to preside over the election.

Ms. Havens nominated Johanna Roper-Robinson as Vice-President of the Board. Ms. Roper-Robinson accepted the nomination. After a unanimous voice vote, Ms. Roper-Robinson assumed the office of Vice-President.

Ms. Roper-Robinson nominated Patricia Hutchinson as Secretary of the Board. Ms. Hutchinson accepted the nomination. After a unanimous voice vote, Ms. Hutchinson assumed the office of Secretary.

Mr. Blattner nominated Darlene Havens as Treasurer of the Board. Ms. Havens accepted the nomination. After a unanimous voice vote, Ms. Havens assumed the office of Secretary.

Ms. Havens made a motion to approve the December minutes and Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded the motion.

Voting commenced:

Alvarez	Yes	Hutchinson	Yes
Buccafusco	Yes	(Rondinaro	Yes)
Blattner	Yes	Roper-Robinson	Yes
Casserly	Yes	Schappert	Yes
Havens	Yes	Russell-Folwer	Yes

The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havens reported:

Budget Amount	\$684,677.00	
Spent to date	\$361,259.17	
Waiting to pay vendor	\$42,914.79	
STD & Waiting	\$404,173.96	
Balance of Budget	\$280,503.04	
Budget Amount	\$684,677.00	
Amount Spent	\$404,173.96	
Balance	\$280,503.04	
		59%

Report from the Department Head

1. Mr. Hallman announced that the first “Smartphones and Mobile Tech for Adults and Seniors” class was a huge success with 39 attendees. Luis will publicize upcoming meeting topics:

January 12: Understanding the iPhone

January 19: Understanding the Android

January 26: Useful iPhone Apps

February 2: Useful Android Apps

2. Library hours are now: 9 am - 2 pm Friday & Saturday; 9 am - 7 pm Monday through Thursday. Closed Sunday.
3. Mayor and Council have approved continuing with the architect and engineer already consulting on the library windows and surface treatment.

Old Business

Professional development hours must be reported to the state every year. A total of 7 hours for the entire board is required.

New Business

Mr. Blattner made a motion that the Library Board continue meeting on the 2nd Monday of all months (excluding July and August) at 6:30. April and October 2nd Mondays are holidays, so we will meet on the 3rd Monday of those months:

January 9, 2023

February 13, 2023

March 13, 2023

April 17, 2023

May 8, 2023

June 12, 2023

September 11, 2023

October 16, 2023

November 13, 2023

December 11, 2023

Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded the motion.

Alvarez	Yes
Buccafusco	Yes
Blattner	Yes
Casserly	Yes
Havens	Yes

The motion was carried.

Hutchinson	Yes
Rondinaro	Yes
Roper-Robinson	Yes
Schappert	Yes
Russell-Folwer	Yes

The Board decided that we would establish an ad hoc committee to review special issues whenever the first of those issues arises.

A brief discussion of installation of a mural in the AV room was begun. It was proposed that Mr. Bruce Fahy would present ideas for the mural to the Board before undertaking this project. Ms. Hutchinson shared that previous mural projects undertaken by the Arts Council were competitive.

Ms. Hutchinson presented a brief description of a program called Welcome.us which allows citizens to sponsor refugees. The program currently focuses on Ukrainian refugee families. The Hutchinsons have applied to sponsor a family and made a request for the support and help of the library. The Ukrainian family will probably arrive in April. Luis suggested we talk to Rocco Cavaluzzi. Mr. Alvarez offered assurance that Belmar Elementary School is ready to help.

Public Comment

Ms. Anita Peccorelli attended the meeting and had several questions.

- Progress of the bid process on the windows and membrane of the building?
- Can deliveries of books be made to the senior building?
- Would the library consider holding a game day for kids, similar to the game day run by the Rec Department for adults? We will look into this.
- What outdoor concerts are scheduled for 2023? Luis reported that he is working with Pat Roddy and Danny White on this. The schedule for cultural events and entertainment will be available soon.
- Could we consider a children's crafts program?

During the public comment, David Sancious and Kevin Maypothor visited the meeting. Mr. Sancious offered his thanks for the board's support of the project to install a piano sculpture in his honor in Piano plaza.

With no further comments, Ms. Havens moved to close the public session and

enter closed session. Roper-Robinson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Discussion regarding hourly rate for Library Assistants and Mr. Hallman's hours and pay. Mr. Hallman requested a change in his hours and salary, consistent with an adjustment proposed in his hiring interview with the administration. He proposed to reduce his hours from 40 to 20 hrs/week and to raise his hourly rate from \$36 to \$50/hr. He has determined that he can successfully direct the library in 20 hours per week.

Ms. Roper-Robinson moved to close the closed session and enter back into public session. Ms. Havens seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Session

Mr. Buccafusco moved that our Library Assistants with more than five years of employment at the Belmar Library be paid \$22 per hour and new Library Assistants be paid \$20 per hour, retroactive to January 1, 2023. Ms. Casserly seconded the motion.

Alvarez	Yes	Hutchinson	Yes
Buccafusco	Yes	(Rondinaro	Yes)
Blattner	Yes	Roper-Robinson	Yes
Casserly	Yes	Schappert	Yes
Havens	Yes	Russell-Folwer	Yes

The motion was carried.

Mr. Buccafusco moved that Mr. Hallman's hours be reduced to 20 hrs, annual salary of \$52000 (\$50 per hour), retroactive to January 1, 2023. Ms. Russell-Fowler seconded the motion.

Alvarez	Yes	Hutchinson	Yes
Buccafusco	Yes	(Rondinaro	Yes)
Blattner	Yes	Roper-Robinson	Yes
Casserly	Yes	Schappert	Yes
Havens	Yes	Russell-Folwer	Yes

The motion was carried.

The new arrangement will result in a savings to the library, since his salary will go from \$75,000/yr to \$52,000/yr.

Mr. Hallman announced that Danielle Arnold will no longer be a paid consultant to the library, so she can serve as Mr. Alvarez's alternate to the board.

Ms. Russell-Fowler moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded the motion and after unanimous support, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2023.

Draft submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 01/10/23