

**Belmar Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 12, 2023  
Minutes**

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

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold, Michael Schappert

Also present: David Hallman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Ms. Russell-Fowler read the notice of the meeting. Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Blattner made a motion that we approve the minutes of the May 8 meeting. Ms. Casserly seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Director's Report

- The recommendations for the bid specifications were returned and the Capital Improvements Committee met. Hopefully the bid for the windows can be advertised in the next two weeks and any bids returned should be reviewed this summer.
- Mr. Hallman asked for discussion of the future of the basement: should it become a children's library or a technology center? In either case, the floor will need a new treatment. Mr. Hallman suggested carpet squares for easy removal and cleaning, especially considering the history of flooding in the basement.
- Discussion of use of the basement of the Presbyterian Church for adult classes has resulted in consideration of Taylor pavilion for that purpose. There would be no cost for the facility, which could be used during fall, winter and spring.
- The strategic planning effort will be led by Leslie Naughton. She has considerable experience and is willing to lead the process for a rate of \$30/hr.
- Plans are in the works for a field day with a literacy theme. This would kick off children's transition back to school in a fun and stimulating way.
- The board is not scheduled to meet in July or August, but if bids are returned in the summer, a late summer meeting may be necessary.

- We need to establish/enforce a policy for dogs visiting the library; they must be certified therapy dogs.

### Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havens reported the following financial report for May, 2023:

Budget Amount	\$786,808.20	
Spent to date	\$178,344.29	
Waiting to pay vendor	\$26,182.40	
STD & Waiting	\$204,526.69	
Balance of Budget	\$582,281.51	
Budget Amount	\$786,808.20	
Amount Spent	\$204,526.69	
Balance	\$582,281.51	

### President's Report

- The board must decide on a tree with purple blooms to be installed on the library grounds in memory of Lois Gallagher. Ms. Hutchinson nominated lilac. Discussion revolved around longevity of the blooms. Ms. Russell-Fowler will consult with a landscaper on the positive and negative aspects of lilacs and hydrangeas.
- A craft club or crafting sessions were suggested for the library, considering their popularity when we used the Methodist Church facility.
- Why not contact kids needing community service hours to help with the next concert?
- A Juneteenth concert will be held at Taylor Pavilion on Monday, June 19, at 7 pm. It will feature John Luckinbill's Orchestra and speaker Tasha Youngblood Brown.
- Ms. Russell Fowler attended the new Balance, Strength and Mobility Class and reported that it provides an excellent workout.

- Kudos to board member Mike Schappert whose expertise as an engineer/architect has been very helpful on the capital improvements committee.
- Library activity is now posted on the digital sign in the marina.
- Ms. Russell-Fowler has provided links to the two most recent webinars for trustees from the state library. We should all make an attempt to “attend” some of the inservice offerings from the state. In addition, the manual for trustees has been reproduced and placed at the desk for use by any trustees who would like to read it.

#### New business

- Anita Peccorelli brought to our attention an Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides a monthly benefit to those in need of help with the cost of internet connectivity. The details can be found at [affordableconnectivity.gov](https://affordableconnectivity.gov). She would like us to publicize this as another benefit of the library.

Executive Session — A motion was made by Ms. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Blattner to close the public session and enter executive session. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Hallman left the meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Russell-Fowler and seconded by Mr. Buccafusco to re-establish Mr. Hallman’s employment status at 32.5 hours (considered full-time), maintaining his current salary rate of \$50/hr. This change will commence on July 1, 2023. He will earn 25 vacation days per year as he did when he was full-time during the last five months of 2022.

#### Vote:

Bruce Blattner	Yes
Jerry Buccafusco	Yes
Kathleen Casserly	Yes
Darleen Havens	Yes
Pat Hutchinson	Yes
Johanna Roper-Robinson	Yes
Sharon Russell-Fowler	Yes

The motion was carried. Ms. Russell-Fowler will alert Mr. Kane about this change.

Public Session — Ms. Russell-Fowler moved that the board return to public session. Ms. Havens seconded that motion, which was passed unanimously.

Since the board usually does not meet during July and August, the next scheduled meeting will be September 18. If an interim session is needed because of the window replacement process, an announcement will be made to the board and the public.

Ms. Roper-Robinson proposed adjournment at 7:30 pm. Mr. Blattner seconded, and after a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Draft submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 06/17/23