

Belmar Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Sept 18, 2023 6:30pm
Meeting Notes

Present: Kathleen Casserly, Darleen Havens, Maria Rondinaro, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Michael Schappert, Danielle Arnold, Bruce Blattner, Sharon Russell Fowler (Zoom)

Also Present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido

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

Ms. Havens approved the meeting minutes, Ms. Russell-Fowler seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Leslie Naughton to discuss collecting data for Strategic Plan

- Our library has so much potential
- Strategic plan is Not a wish list, it's a needs list/underserved, how can we serve better?
- Discussed phenomenal step forward with satellite use at Taylor building. "Do not feel constricted by building." Ex. Duggan building at Spring Lake.
- We will be nailing down Mission Statement and Vision, and 5 year plan
- How do we reach the Senior citizen population? Discussion: Home delivery ideas for seniors
- Need to appeal to residents that will get the word out about library and how much they love and need it, and also donate.
- Spanish speaking population- want to engage community
- Goal: "sit down, discuss who is being served and who is not being served and how do we get to that population not being served."
- 60% of people live alone in Belmar, we want them to feel comfortable going to events by themselves.
- Question: will there be a committee of the board working on the strategic plan?
- Consensus of board was "yes, committee would be created"
- Library should be involved in every civic event in town, library presence needed, ex. school play,

Deb Graham -new Librarian gave tour of the Library as she has worked hard to clean, sort and organize the space.

- Thanked the Board for her position as she "loves it"
- Every single book is now correctly catalogued, weeding out the worn and dated.
- Change in organization for kids' area, books for younger children on bottom, higher for older kids.
- Built a good collection of Spanish books, Books for Parents to read to their children regarding serious matters, and bins for kids to look head on when searching for books to read.
- New section for puzzles shelf made by Sean from DPW-Thanks Sean!
- Introduction to the Library Mouse
- Chromebooks available
- New section on Graphic Novels
- New section for College and Career books coming, including test prep and "Careers without College" section.
- Adult section also has changes in organization, right side has New releases section, books that were turned into movies. Underneath window all NJ interest books (History, Bon Jovi, local authors, etc)
- Most of the weeding and replacement of books were in adult non-fiction. Much more pleasing to the eye now.
- Goal 10K books
- Large section of Fiction in large print
- Still have more that can be ordered this year from Baker and Taylor
- Sharon Russell-Fowler suggested an open house for the public sometime in Oct and/or shoot a video of the new set up of the library.
- Luis Pulido stated recent increase in residents signing up for library card

Luis Pulido: Report on Events/Programs

- discussed summer reading program was a big success.
- Presentation on current programs,
- Library partnering with Rec Dept at Taylor Pavilion.
- Everyday there is one or two fitness classes for community. - Increase in attendance at Taylor Pavilion.
- 50 people for Chair yoga so another chair yoga, \$5 for non-residents, all residents are free. Attendance count in our attendance figures.
- Shade Tree Commission is doing Pruning Basics this Thursday
- 3 Author Times lined up, Merry Brennan this Tuesday 26th book about teenage suicide "Lily Unleashed"-evils of puppy mills
- Mick Bennett-Belmar native, all books take place in Belmar
- All 3 will be videotaped and posted soon after. Not live streaming because quality isn't as good.

Fall/Winter Family Events

- Build a Pipe Organ
 - Live Animal Events: Wolves, Penguin and outrageous reptiles all at Taylor Pavilion.
 - Mr. Ray concert for kids, kindness and inclusion
 - Diwali November 9th at Taylor Pavilion-Indian dance and kids learning dance moves, activities for the kids, Bombay River Restaurant, serving food family style, minimize waiting. Kids have off next day for teacher convention.
 - Christmas Concert-organ and flute duo at Taylor Pavilion.
- Discussion: Help students get their service hours volunteering at cultural events.

Director's Report:

Dave Hallman:

- Had pre-construction meeting regarding window replacement. ENB was awarded the bid for windows. Pella windows are ordered, won't be here until January. Discussed one window at a time, then one window a day.
- Fee Structure ordinance was awarded from the town. 5 free copies and then 25 cents, colored 50 cents, no cost for faxes, \$25 for a card, except Lake Como. The late fee fines are gone.
- Discussion: Do we want to offer possible Sunday hours? About \$200/day 2 staff members for 5 hours. We would be the only library that does it in this area. Challenge would be staffing.
- Discussion regarding \$50 hour/program fee and whether Knitting and Sewing (both 2 hours) Remain at 2 hours or switch to every other week and/or instructors could choose if they want to donate their time for the second hour, as trying to keep consistent with \$50 per program for consistent budgeting. Mr. Hallman will discuss with instructors on their preference, as it is known they would prefer more time.

Bruce Blattner mentioned former Library class: Babysitting course was very popular. Discussed possible combination with CPR/First Aid class.

August Budget

Treasurer Report

Prepared by Darleen Havens

Budget Amount 786,808.20
Spent to date 314,738.66
Waiting to Pay Vendor: \$18,823.46
STD + Waiting \$333,562.12
Balance of Budget \$453,246.08

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Amount Spent: \$333,562.12
Balance: \$453,246.08

President's Report: Sharon Russell-Fowler

- Lois Gallagher tree lilac or hydrangea bush, early spring, will have announcement, ceremony
- Going to ask for Tween ideas, kids to ask their own opinion of what they would want.
- Reminder about Professional hours, send to Sharon keeping a tally for report
- Pat Roddy concert students looking for service hours can assist in setting up and breaking down chairs Oct 5th 5pm
- Digital Marina sign- 1 a month from Borough
- Craft class discussed
- Discussion on whether classes should put out proposals/syllabus, not for fitness
- Question on when Friends for the Belmar Library, would like to start again
- Discussed models for vision impaired tech

Old Business: windows (discussed in Directors Report)

New Business: Operations/The two benches are getting rusted out, around Memorial trees, need to be refinished or get new ones. The signs we have honoring the memorials, ex. Honoring Ms. Day, needs to be secured.

Public Comments:

Anita Peccarelli : stated great job with the windows,

- mentioned Anchor confirmation letter, will post again, would like us to do another presentation on Anchor program
- Mexican independent Day Sept 15th, would prefer education about Hispanic Heritage month, instead of Cinco de Maio
- Discussed Juneteeth,: Suggested honoring Ken Samuels famous chef and having Grace Roper day celebrated. Suggested musicians be more diverse.
- Anita offered to pick up books to drop off to seniors/homebound residents

Maria Rondinaro: discussed her work with the Boro to create pamphlet on current resources for the homeless population. Will distribute to Library and Boro offices.

Discussed need for Homeless to have access to telephone in order to call Monmouth County **Intake # 732-431-6000 ext 4613**, often a message needs to be left and a case worker will call back. **If after 4pm, call 211**, the state line, after a few prompts, you will reach a person. NJ Rescue Mission in Asbury is currently the only shelter that takes walk-ins, if space.

-discussed briefly free Lifeline Safelink phones and how library may be able to assist people in need order a phone, delivered to the library (7-10 business days). Additionally discussed need for transportation, Healthy Hop Program for Seniors and proposed possible fundraising for Uber/Lyft cards to be used for people to get to their shelter.

Bruce Blattner: discussed former Welfare director, Carolyn Sharrock and her position at Belmar borough as helpful resource.

Events proposed: Latin Day/Night-inclusive event for all the Latin countries. Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15th-Oct 15th

Suggestion Senior Field Day

Bruce Blattner made motion to adjourn, Johanna Roper-Robinson seconded, and after an unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Draft submitted by Maria Rondinaro 09/21/23

