

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 15, 2024
Minutes**

Present: Bruce Blattner, Kathleen Casserly, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Maria Rondinaro, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco,

Also present: David Hallman, Debbie Graham and Luis Pulido

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Russell-Fowler read the notice of the meeting. Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag.

Ms. Russell-Fowler took the roll. Ms. Caverly motioned to accept the March 11 minutes. Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded, and the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

From Ms. Graham

- Strategic Plan update—first meeting April 18, 2024, 6 pm.
Committee members: Deb Graham, Donna Falk, Allyson Byrne, Mark Furry, Maria Rondinaro, Anna Pecorelli
Ms. Graham meets with Leslie Naughton 4-5 hrs/week. Major topics include improving technology and outreach (classes). Discussion of Large Print purchases—we're currently at 30% of adult collection, consistent with other libraries. Ideas for bringing in more tweens: Library game nights? After school activities?
Library is seeing a generational demographic switch. More young adults.
- Library activities have included class visits from BES. Increase in Spanish-speaking patrons, especially with young children. Bilingual purchases are popular. Intern Gisell Rodriguez and Library Assistant Joy Lis are presenting Bilingual Storytime—very popular.
- New library card design by Bruce Fahey, inspired by our library's windows. Considering design as Library logo. New library cards are needed, and Ms. Graham asked for the board's feelings on adopting the design as a logo. Mr. Schappert felt this might pose a branding issue for the borough, since Belmar has a recently established logo. Others thought that branding the library separately from the town was appropriate. Discussion will continue, and the library staff will discuss as well.
- The library is collaborating with BES on after-school programs.
- We will no longer be getting print magazines, but using Hoopla and Libby for

online readers.

- The summer reading program will feature Beach Blanket Bingo.
- Management system for PCs has been ordered+

From Mr. Hallman

- Mr. Hallman announced that the windows will be delivered on April 25 and installation will begin May 6. Mr. Hallman is anticipating challenges to service continuity during construction, although the installers say there will be no interruptions.
- Mr. Hallman announced that along with the Tarzians' donations to the Media Center, a second donor family has come forward. Although nothing is certain, they may want to fund a new bench.
- Mr. Hallman has noticed that patrons are interested in using the library Friday afternoon after the 2:30 closure time. He asked the board's opinion of staying open 2.5 hours longer, till 5 pm on Fridays. This will require an added expenditure of roughly \$6500. Another option would be to cut hours elsewhere. This possibility was discussed. Mr. Schappert felt that adding hours to expand service would be justified. Ms. Roper-Robinson observed that historically, the library has offered separate summer and winter schedules, which might keep the library within the open hours budgeted.

From Mr. Pulido

- Mr. Pulido is very pleased with recent programs and their popularity.
3/14/24—Irish Soda Bread competition/celebration: 200+ attendees, 29 different soda breads, 20 dancers
3/16/24—Authortime w/ Mike Farragher: 16 attendees
3/19/24—Home Landscaping by the Shade Tree Commission: @25 attendees
3/20/24—Medicare Information Workshop: 7 attendees
3/26/24—Guided Mindfulness Meditation with Bhante Sujatha: @55 attendees
3/27/24—Authortime w/ Zac Levy: 14 attendees
4/6/24—Planning and Investing for the Younger Generation w/Angelica Brinkofski: 5 attendees
4/13/24—Spring Writers' Block Book Fair: 30 authors, 300+ attendees. Library received copies of each book. There were many sales, and quite a few of the authors will be presenting at the library.
- Mr. Pulido shared info about upcoming events:
4/16/24—Disability Law for Special Needs Families
4/17/24—Medicare Information Workshop
4/20/24—Authortime w/ Maureen Spataro
4/22/24—Cryptocurrency
4/27/24—Living History: Edgar Allen Poe
5/4/24—Authortime w/ Herman Lentz
5/18/24—Authortime w/ Gregory Andrus

5/20/24—Medicare Information Workshop
 Fridays—Bi-Lingual Storytime
 5/6&20/24—Sewing w/Scotti
 5/2,9,16,23&30—Knitting & Crochet

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Havens delivered the financial reports for February, 2024 and March, 2024.

February, 2024

Budget Amount	\$482,250.00	
Spent to date	\$87,595.61	
Waiting to pay vendor	\$15,407.40	
STD & Waiting	\$102,903.01	
Balance of Budget	\$397,346.99	
Budget Amount	\$482,250.00	
Amount Spent	\$102,903.01	
Balance	\$397,346.99	
% remaining to date		21%

March, 2024

Budget Amount	\$609,000.00	
Spent to date	\$128,398.60	
Waiting to pay vendor	\$16,959.50	
STD & Waiting	\$145,358.10	
Balance of Budget	\$463,641.90	

Budget Amount	\$609,000.00	
Amount Spent	\$145,358.10	
Balance	\$463,641.90	
% remaining to date		24%

President's Report

- Ms. Russell-Fowler announced that Lois Gallagher's tribute plant, a purple "vitex" will be planted by DPW. A plaque in gold and black (or silver and black) will be installed for both Ms. Gallagher and Sharon Day.
- The new bench ordered to replace the older, rusting benches features a Victorian distressed look.
- Ms. Russell-Fowler inquired about progress on the proposed Taylor Swift event, however, Ms. Arnold, the board's official "Swifty," was absent, so the update was postponed.

Old/New Business:

There being no old or new business, Mr. Blattner motioned to adjourn. Mr. Schappert seconded. The board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 4/17/24