

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 13, 2024
Minutes**

Present: Bruce Blattner, Kathleen Casserly, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco, Maria Rondinaro, and Johanna Roper-Robinson

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. Hutchinson took the roll. Mr. Blattner motioned to accept the April 15 minutes. Ms. Havens seconded, and the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

From the Director

- The windows have arrived. Mr. Hallman thanked Mr. Schappert for his help in receiving the shipment. Scaffolding will begin Monday, May 20, and installation will start Thursday, May 23. Access to the back door will be limited, except in case of wheelchairs, etc.
- The goal will be to complete one window a day. The team will exercise sensitivity to the children's area, and the fact that access to the downstairs and back door will be needed from time to time. Most often, they will just tarp over bookshelves and computers. Some damage to landscaping is inevitable, but they will remediate.

From Mr. Pulido

- As noted last month, the Writers Block Book Fair was a success. It included 30 authors and had over 300 visitors. Two additional book fairs re scheduled for October 12 and 29. Mr. Pulido will make sure that very local authors have first choice of participating.
- Medicare and disability workshops have been well-attended. Authortime with Maureen Spataro was good. The Cryptocurrency lecture had an audience of 4. The Edgar Allen Poe living history presentation had mixed reviews.

Upcoming are an Authortime presentation with Lucille Maddalena. On June 15, Chris Bogert will present on his book of poetry “Sunflowers”. There was a presentation to Belmar Women’s Club on the founding of the Belmar Public Library.

- Technology: The library is acquiring “DeepFreeze.” This software reboots a computer after 30 minutes without use, erasing all information. This helps address privacy issues. There is also a new printer, and we have new licenses for Microsoft Office.
Mr. Pulido will be attending a library summit on AI and website accessibility for the handicapped.
- A Juneteenth celebration will be held on June 18th at Taylor Pavilion featuring the John Luckinbill Orchestra, speakers on the story of Juneteenth and a Diorama created by Bruce Fahy.

Librarian’s Report

Ms. Graham showed a flier for the summer program’s Beach Blanket Bingo. The staff are planning an open house and are considering a theme encompassing authors or genres of literature. The Strategic Planning Committee has not met since several members have been away.

President’s Report

Ms. Russell-Fowler described the work of 17-yr-old author Zac Levy on homelessness. Last month the library joined in Zac’s work by advertising a watch drive. Community members can donate unneeded watches that will be refurbished if needed and distributed to homeless people to help with scheduling and job searches, etc.

Ms. Russell-Fowler made a motion to accept a donation from the Ghosh family for an additional bench for the library grounds. The motion was seconded by Ms. Havens. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

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

April, 2024

Budget Amount	\$609,000.00	
Spent to date	\$160,284.88	

Waiting to pay vendor	\$8,024.97	
STD & Waiting	\$168,309.85	
Balance of Budget	\$440,690.15	
Budget Amount	\$609,000.00	
Amount Spent	\$168,309.85	
Balance	\$440,690.15	
% remaining to date		24%

Old/New Business

The staff has been given CPR training.

Public Comment

Three members of the community, Sam Marzarella, Jill Hernon and Tom Madigan, expressed frustration with the noise level generated by the library outdoor concerts. Mr. Marzarella read an ordinance that stated that noise greater than a conversation at normal levels is illegal. Mr. Hallman had asked the complainants to express their concerns at the board meeting. Mr. Hallman assured the neighbors that he would take up this complaint with the town lawyer and work towards a solution.

The board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2024.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 5/20/24