

**Belmar Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 10, 2024  
Minutes**

Present: Danielle Arnold, Bruce Blattner, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Maria Rondinaro, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Kathleen Casserly

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 May 13 minutes. Ms. Havens seconded, and the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

From the Director

- There is good and bad news on the windows. Eight of the windows have to be re-made due to an incorrect design. The sealing of the installed windows must wait till the corrected windows are finished and installed.
- Regarding the complaint about noise level of concerts, Mr. Hallman took the decibel readers to Mr. Mazarella's house during a concert. The reading was 50-70 decibels in the house, which is not too bad. Mayor Buccafusco, Chief Scott and Attorney \_\_\_ agreed that the events exception to the state's noise ordinance applied to this type of event in Belmar, although it was not specifically stated in the Belmar By-Laws. Mayor Buccafusco will move to change the borough ordinance at the next Council meeting, and the Library board will vote after the public portion of this meeting.

From the Librarian

- A strategic planning meeting was held last Thursday to set priorities, as follows:
  - Reach out to the Hispanic community;
  - There is a new little library at the laundromat;
  - Bilingual storytime will continue.
- Ms. Rondinaro will send resources for dealing with mental health issues that the library can provide.

## From Mr. Pulido

- Gregory Andres' author talk was cancelled due to illness.
- Summer concert kickoff went well with about 350 people in attendance. All pizza was consumed
- Beach Music concert went well, with about 50 attendees.
- The watch drive ended May 26. Luis will help distribute the watches.
- Two author talks are scheduled and have been advertised:
  - Christopher Bogert will present *Sunflowers*, his book of poetry about Ukraine on June 15, 11 am.
  - Lucille Madalena will present her book, *Moving On By!*, on June 29 at 11 am. She is an executive coach and bases her insights on observations about teamwork derived from her experience as a dog sled driver.
- A Juneteenth celebration will be held on June 18th at Taylor Pavilion, featuring the John Luckinbill Orchestra. The program will feature myths about Juneteenth. Bruce Fahy's beautiful drawing celebrating the history of Juneteenth has been made into a banner and will be featured at the celebration.
- Mr. Graham's Beach Blanket Bingo kickoff to summer was a success.
- Billy Terrell will discuss *Rock and War* at the BES Class of 1959's 65th reunion on June 19th at 4 pm.
- Latin American Month will be celebrated at Taylor Pavilion, with a performance of Coyote by former Belmar resident Tim McCorry.
- As mentioned last month, two book fairs are scheduled for October.
- Further information will be forthcoming about Diwali; Halloween Trunk or Treat, Kids' Movie Night and a Christmas Concert.
- Technology — PO have been issued for new Microsoft Office licenses.
- A new Kyocera Printer is expected but has been backordered. Once both items have arrived, Marshall and Luis will set up the public PCs to Deep Freeze will restore correctly and Office applications will be available to the public.

## Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havens delivered the financial report for April, 2024.

April, 2024

Budget Amount	\$684,000.00	
Spent to date	\$197,715.19	
Waiting to pay vendor	\$14,573.32	
STD & Waiting	\$212,288.51	
Balance of Budget	\$471,711.49	

Budget Amount	\$684,000.00	
Amount Spent	\$212,288.51	
Balance	\$471,711.49	
% remaining to date		31%

Reserve Account balance: \$261,681.32

President's Report

Ms. Russell-Fowler thanked Mr. Hallman and Mr. Schappert for their efforts with the windows. After the window installation is finished, the memorial bush will be planted. The "Pringle tree" which had been donated by the Women's Club need to be replaced.

Executive Session

Ms. Roper Robinson moved to close the public session and go into executive session. Ms. Hutchinson seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion was initiated by about changing the library house. The following new hours were proposed and discussed:

Monday-Thursday 9 AM - 7 PM

Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

Saturday & Sunday 9 AM - 2 PM

Data on changes in patronage will be gathered and evaluated to decide if changes should be permanent.

Ms. Russell-Fowler proposed accepting the new hours. Mr. Schappert seconded.

Alvarez	—
Arnold	Y
Buccafusco	Y
Blattner	Y
Casserly	—
Havens	Y
Hutchinson	Y
Rondinaro	—

Roper-Robinson	Y
Russell-Fowler	Y
Schappert	Y

The motion was carried.

A resolution for sharing services with BES for the following clubs was discussed:

- Fishing Club—very popular in this locale. A previous club elected 30 members.
- E-Sports—popular with middle and high school. Students compete virtually on electronic games, create virtual friendships. Over 50% of students are typically special education.

Ms. Russell-Fowler moved that the library allocate \$2500 to support each club.  
Mr. Blattner seconded.

Alvarez	—
Arnold	Y
Buccafusco	Y
Blattner	Y
Casserly	—
Havens	Y
Hutchinson	Y
Rondinaro	—
Roper-Robinson	Y
Russell-Fowler	Y
Schappert	Y

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Havens and seconded by Mr. Buccafusco to close the executive session and return to public session. The motion was carried unanimously.

Upon returning to public session the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2024.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 8/30/24