

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 21, 2024
Minutes**

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

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco, Kathleen Casserly, Michael Schappert

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. Ms. Havens motioned to accept the September 9 minutes. Ms. Rondinaro seconded, and the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Director's Report

Mr. Hallman reported that the windows are now scheduled for completion by the end of November.

Mrs. Ghosh is happy with the siting of the book bench. Unfortunately, the landscaping will probably not be completed before the Diwali celebration.

The quick approval for the chimney inspection was appreciated, and no safety issues were raised. Repairs will be done in the next two weeks.

The fire marshal has established the occupancy limit for the library to be 49 people on each level.

Librarian's Report

Ms. Graham says the digital contents of the library has been increased by 70 titles. Forty more are expected in the next few weeks.

The circulation management system we currently have is becoming strained, but the next step up is somewhat beyond our needs.

Visits from school classes are being carried out, lowest grades first. Visits welcome and orient children to the library and include a story, crafts, songs.

Anita has been instrumental in installing a new story walk at the 15th Street Playground.

Ms. Graham explained the digital services. Hoopla is a subscription digital streaming and downloading service for all digital media (think "EasyPass") which costs \$3000/quarter. 160-180 patrons use these services each month. Growing

patronage means that we must look at purchasing titles as well as renting services.

Mr. Pulido's Report

See attached report.

Approval of Strategic Plan

Mr. Schappert was absent from the meeting, but sent a number of suggestions for edits to the draft Strategic Plan. The board agreed to go through the plan and consider recommendations, since the Strategic Planning Committee was present. This resulted in some minor modifications to the language of the report.

A motion was made by Ms. Russell-Fowler and seconded by Ms. Roper-Robinson to accept the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan with modifications as agreed during the October Trustees' meeting. The edited Strategic Plan is attached.

Voting:

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

The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

September 2024		Spent to date	Reimbursement
Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Spent to date	\$416,552.52	\$423,976.99	\$7,424.47
Waiting to pay vendor	\$17,175.53		
STD & Waiting	\$433,728.05		

Balance of Budget	\$430,845.95		
Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Amount Spent	\$433,728.05		
Balance	\$430,845.95		
% remaining to date		50%	

New Business

A numbered and signed giclée print, 41"x46", of a painting by Robert Gonsalves was donated to the library by Belmar resident Jerry Birenz. The Surrealist piece is titled "Written Worlds" and depicts library patrons being transported to other worlds through the power of reading. The original painting was done in 2003. The donated giclée is numbered 46 in a run of 200 prints. Ms. Hutchinson agreed to do some research on whether special lighting was needed for the giclée and possibly getting an appraisal of the piece.

In addition to this gift, the Ghosh family has donated a bench and landscaping for the grounds of the library.

Ms. Arnold made a motion that the Belmar Public Library accept both gifts. Ms. Rondinaro seconded the motion and a vote was taken.

Voting:

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

The motion was carried.

President's Report

Discussion continued from the last meeting about whether non-residents should pay for fitness classes. There was a recommendation that library cards should clearly state what services are covered by a library card. Rather than print new cards, a label might be added to existing cards.

Discussion included the need for a little free library in Pyanoe Plaza; expanding children's and local authors' books; progress on the Fishing Club's course and the E-Sports program.

Ms. Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Blattner and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 11.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 11/7/24