

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 9, 2024
Minutes**

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

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco, 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 June minutes. Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded, and the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee presented a Powerpoint presentation reporting on their progress with the Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2027. Members of the committee include Mark Furey, Anita Pecorelli, Alison Byrne, Maria Rondinaro, Deb Graham and Donna Falk. This effort to provide guidance into the future is facilitated by Leslie Naughton.

A new Mission Statement was introduced:

The Belmar Public Library provides our diverse community with a welcoming opportunity to access information through reading, technology, activities and cultural experiences. The library and its staff provide an inclusive environment in which all our patrons can become successful, life-long learners.

Goal #1 Capital Improvements

- achieve ADA compliance
 - front ramp, working doorway
 - compliant patron bathroom; new staff bathroom
- Better fire egress
- Improve safety and aesthetics of exterior
- Safety fence around generator
- Landscape design and maintenance plan

- Paint/update interior
- Plan for future expansion of the library

Goal #2 Technology

- Dedicated server for library
- Update software to Sirsi (or equivalent)
- Hire dedicated part-time IT consultant
- Website needs ongoing and evolving updating
- Expand classes for IT learning
- Enhance remote use of library through educational videos
- Ongoing staff training on technology and platforms
- Ongoing and expanding IT partnerships with schools
- Develop Belmar library app

Goal #3 Outreach

- Increase social media accessibility
- Update hardware for staff and patrons
- Employ/enlist a trained social worker for patron services
- Increase outreach to hard-to-reach communities within Belmar.

Goal #4 Collection Development

- Print collection
- Digital collection
 - Increase budget for Overdrive
 - Begin to build in-house digital collection
- Promote digital offerings (See attached.)

From Mr. Pulido

- The Juneteenth celebration was successful.
- The Youth Art Programs finished. The concert series throughout the summer has been well-attended.
- There were four Authority events
- As of September 3, all fitness classes had returned to Taylor Pavilion from Borough Hall.
- Mr. Hallman will approach the Hispanic Community through the schools in order to stimulate the diverse population of patrons.
- Bilingual Storytime was successful, but the intern who led that effort has gone off to college.
- Ms. 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. (See attached.)

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havens delivered the financial report for June through August, 2024.

June, 2024

Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Spent to date	\$252,475.76		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$28,842.76		
STD & Waiting	\$281,318.52		
Balance of Budget	\$583,255.48		
Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Amount Spent	\$281,318.52		
Balance	\$583,255.48		
% remaining to date		33%	

July, 2024

		Spent to date	Reimbursement
Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Spent to date	\$299,918.03	\$307,342.5	\$7,424.47
Waiting to pay vendor	\$36,414.09		
STD & Waiting	\$336,332.12		

Balance of Budget	\$528,241.88		
Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Amount Spent	\$336,332.12		
Balance	\$528,241.88		
% remaining to date		39%	

August 2024		Spent to date	Reimbursement
Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Spent to date	\$357,556.83	\$364,981.30	\$7,424.47
Waiting to pay vendor	\$31,030.82		
STD & Waiting	\$388,587.65		
Balance of Budget	\$475,986.35		
Budget Amount	\$864,574.00		
Amount Spent	\$388,587.65		
Balance	\$475,986.35		
% remaining to date		45%	

President's Report

Ms. Russell-Fowler commented that we need more outreach to the senior building.

Trustees' professional development hours are due to Ms. Russell-Fowler.

Mr. Pulido's printed calendars are very helpful to patrons.

Old Business

Window screens were not part of the bid. Screens are needed for the lower front windows. Mr. Hallman will research costs for custom screens for the (custom) windows.

A motion was made to have library-run classes (in contrast to rec-sponsored events) funded fully so there is no cost to out-of-town participants. In other words, rec will take over all classes, but the library will subsidize instructors. Rules may change.

Discussion ensued: Mr. Schappert felt that anything sponsored by the library should be free to all, whether resident or non-resident. It was suggested that the Recreation Program take over rec events at the library.

Ms. Robinson expressed the opinion that all classes should be structured similarly. If non-residents are to pay for some classes, they should pay for all classes.

The motion was tabled till next meeting.

New Business

The Fishing Club, which is an official vendor, will charge \$2500 for a "Fishing Club." A second new club, E-Sports, will meet in the library basement. The board has offered to fund these two courses.

Public Comment

People who are not part of the town should pay for resources of the library. Dogs should not be on the lawn where the public sits during a concert.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Russell-Fowler and seconded by Ms. Roper-Robinson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Since October 14 is Columbus Day, the next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2024.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 10/21/24