

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 10, 2025
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

Also present: Debbie Graham, David Hallman, Luis Pulido

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

Mr. Blattner moved to accept the January, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Arnold and the board voted unanimously to accept the January minutes.

Director's Report

Mr. Hallman explained that library staff were due raises. Mayor Buccafusco made a motion that as of the first pay period in April, all library staff excluding the director (librarians and library assistants) will receive a 2% raise. Voting was as follows:

Alvarez	absent
Arnold	Y
Blattner	Y
Buccafusco	Y
Havens	Y
Hutchinson	Y
(Rondinaro	not voting)
Roper-Robinson	Y
Russell-Fowler	Y
Schappert	Y

The resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Hallman announced his intention to change the library membership from a lifetime membership to a yearly membership and institute a fee for use of the facilities. Currently, Belmar residents have free access to a library card, so the fee will be charged to non-residents, who now pay \$25 for a card. The fee will be

raised to \$40, and will be charged annually. Raising the fee is largely necessitated by the increasing cost of renting digital media. Most patrons borrow ebooks, ibooks, videos and other media for use at home.

Mr. Buccafusco made a motion that, effective immediately, all non-resident new patrons shall be charged an annual fee of \$40 per year for a Belmar library card. Ms. Roper-Robinson seconded the motion. Voting proceeded as follows:

Alvarez	absent
Arnold	Y
Blattner	Y
Buccafusco	Y
Havens	Y
Hutchinson	Y
(Rondinaro	not voting)
Roper-Robinson	Y
Russell-Fowler	Y
Schappert	Y

The motion was carried.

Mr. Schappert was concerned that some non-resident school children would not be able to afford a library card, and Mr. Hallman assured him that their cards would remain free. Mr. Schappert requested that this intention be resolved by the board. He moved that the library would offer school-age patrons living in Belmar or Lake Como Belmar library cards without a fee. Ms. Arnold seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows:

Alvarez	absent
Arnold	Y
Blattner	Y
Buccafusco	Y
Havens	Y
Hutchinson	Y
(Rondinaro	not voting)
Roper-Robinson	Y
Russell-Fowler	Y
Schappert	Y

The motion was carried.

Mr. Schappert further moved that current non-resident patrons' library cards will expire December 31, 2025, and the new \$40 price will be applied from January 1, 2026. Mr. Buccafusco seconded the motion, and the voting commenced:

Alvarez	absent
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Arnold	Y
Blattner	Y
Buccafusco	Y
Havens	Y
Hutchinson	Y
(Rondinaro not voting)	
Roper-Robinson	Y
Russell-Fowler	Y
Schappert	Y

The motion was carried.

Several people expressed concern that the new fee might constitute a hardship for some current patrons of the library. Mr. Hallman and Ms. Graham will meet to address hardship provisions for veterans, seniors and other special non-resident patrons.

Mr. Hallman announced that the Strength and Balance class being offered by the library now has 40 members. The class meets twice a week. Mr. Hallman announced that we will open another class on Thursdays at 1 pm to supplement the two classes that now meet Tuesday and Friday at 1:30, noting that all classes will end at the beginning of June, when St. Rose students no longer need to use the gym. Paid parking in the beach area begins May 1, also limiting fitness class patronage.

The Facilities Committee will meet on March 11. The planned bathroom and envelope issues (doors, painting, lighting, wifi, etc.) will be addressed by a new engineering firm.

There is an open position on the board. The Mayor will appoint Mark Furey to fill the position.

Mr. Pulido's Report

Please contact Dave or Luis if you can help with the St. Patrick's Day celebration Wednesday. Set-up will begin at 4:30 pm.

An events update is attached.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havens delivered the financial reports for January and February, 2025.

January 2025 - Temporary Budget

Spent to date Reimbursement

Budget Amount	\$234,975.40		
Spent to date	\$47,652.63		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$17,019.65		
STD & Waiting	\$64,672.28		
Balance of Budget	\$170,303.12		
Budget Amount	\$234,975.40		
Amount Spent	\$64,672.28		
Balance	\$170,303.12	28%	

February 2025		Spent to date	Reimbursement
Budget Amount	\$234,975.40		
Spent to date	\$89,631.39	\$567,847.73	\$7,424.47
Waiting to pay vendor	\$14,216.13		
STD & Waiting	\$103,847.52		
Balance of Budget	\$131,127.88		
Budget Amount	\$234,975.40		
Amount Spent	\$103,847.52		
Balance	\$131,127.88	66%	

President's Report

- The windows were finished last week and look great.
- Work on the door began today.
- The plaques have arrived for the "Pringle Tree" and the tree in memory of Lois

Gallagher.

- The E-games and Fishing Club groups have been meeting. The Gaming will need an upgrade in Wifi facilities.
- Teacher Katherine Quinn is leading a Tweens Book Club. Several young people looking for volunteer opportunities have offered to help. The Media Specialist at the Mountz School might be a good candidate for summer work.
- Bilingual Story Time is growing. The bilingual intern from the Academy Charter School, Erica, has begun work.
- The Summer Reading Program, "Discover Belmar," will begin June 21. Students will explore different aspects of Belmar and receive a ticket for a raffle prize.
- We can publicize one activity on the digital marina sign per month.

New Business

By April 30, financial disclosures are due.

Mr. Blattner made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Mr. Schappert seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. The next meeting will be held May 12, 2025.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 3/27/2025