

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 10, 2025
Minutes**

Present: Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Maria Rondinaro, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Danielle Arnold, Bruce Blattner, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco, Mark Furey, Johanna Roper-Robinson,

Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Hallman read the notice of the meeting. Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag.

Ms. Havens moved to accept the September, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rondinaro and the board voted unanimously to accept the September minutes.

Director's Report

Mr. Hallman announced the library's 2026 holiday closings calendar.

January	Library closed 1/1 New Year's Day; 1/19 MLK Birthday
February	Library closed 2/16 Presidents' Day
April	Library closed 4/3-5 Easter wknd
May	Library closed 5/25 Memorial Day wknd
July	Library closed 7/3-5 Fourth of July/US Semi-sesquicentennial
September	Library closed 9/5-7 Labor Day wknd
November	Library closed 11/26-29 Thanksgiving wknd
December	Library closed 12/24-26 Christmas wknd; 12/31/26-1/1/27 NY eve & day

Mr. Hallman informed the board that a staff Events Committee had been established and members are planning a 250th birthday celebration for the US on April 16 at Taylor Pavilion. The committee recommends swapping out the Diwali and Chinese New Year for 2026 and inserting the US Birthday and a celebration of Native American heritage.

Mr. Hallman proposed that we employ the Ocean Avenue Stompers as the centerpiece of the Semi-sesquicentennial celebration. He described the group and showed videos. Reserving the group will cost about \$3000.

Mr. Schappert made a motion that the Library pay up to \$3200 for the Ocean Avenue Stompers as entertainment for the April 16 event. The 5 board members present voted:

Darleen Havens	Y
Pat Hutchinson	Y
Maria Rondinaro	Y
Sharon Russell-Fowler	Y
Michael Schappert	Y

The motion was carried unanimously to secure the services of the Stompers.

The Library has established a holiday food drive for the Belmar food pantries. A list of requested items that can be dropped off at the Belmar Public Library is being circulated.

Mr. Pulido's report

Mr. Pulido provided data about the two cultural events and two live animal events held at the library. For more information, please see attached document.

Hispanic Cultural celebration: Total attendance 109
Diwali Cultural celebration: Total attendance 143

Wolves Live Animal Event: Total attendance 234
Penguins Live Animal Event: Total attendance 187

A number of future events was discussed, including:

Holiday movie night, Dec. 9 (staff to choose movie)

Living History proposed performers:

2/26 George Washington; Alexander Hamilton & Thomas Jefferson
3/26 Bessie Coleman; Molly Pitcher; Julia Gordon Lowe, Girl Scouts founder
10/26 Washington Irving

Irish Soda Bread contest
Poetry Power Hour
Black History Month

Mr. Schappert suggested that, due to growing popularity of Library programs, we should purchase another rack of chairs. Mr. Hallman will explore.

Treasurer's Report

September 2025

Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Spent to date	\$439,579.29		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$19,052.42		
STD & Waiting	\$458,631.71		
Balance of Budget	\$514,948.29		
Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Amount Spent	\$458,631.71		
Balance	\$514,948.29	47%	

October 2025

Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Spent to date	\$488,613.33		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$49,879.56		
STD & Waiting	\$538,492.89		
Balance of Budget	\$435,087.11		
Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Amount Spent	\$538,492.89		
Balance	\$435,087.11	55%	

There being no new or old business to discuss, the board entertained comments from one member of the public.

Ms. Russell-Fowler moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Hutchinson seconded

the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 011/13/2025