

East Brunswick Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 22, 2021

Attendees:

Mayor Brad Cohen, President	Mike Bobish, Acting Library Director
Dr. Ken Freedman	Daragh McAuley, Exec. Administrative Ass't.
Kathy Spadafino	Linda Carbley, Pres., Friends of the Library
Nicole Tibbetts, Secretary	Jenna Ingham, Teen Librarian
Ashish Verma	Melissa Hozik, Adult Programming Librarian
Barbara Wendell	Alpesh Shah, IT Manager
	Angel Albanese, EB Township CFO
	Sherya Bhardwaj, Student Representative
	John Arthur

Note: The meeting was held via Zoom conference.

Mayor Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. A roll call was made and a quorum was present. Mayor Cohen stated that the meeting was advertised and the Open Public Meetings Act requirements were met.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Ms. Wendell made a motion to adopt the June 22, 2021 agenda. Ms. Tibbetts seconded. Voting yes: Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Spadafino, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: none.

Minutes of May 25, 2021:

Ms. Wendell made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2021 meeting. Dr. Freedman seconded. Voting yes: Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Spadafino, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

Public Participation:

Linda Carbley, President of the Friends of the Library, reported that the Friends found a mover to move the books from the current storage unit to the new one, and she is coordinating a date for that to happen with Nels Peterson. The Krispy Kreme donut sale yielded orders for 154 dozen donuts. A fishing derby will be held in September.

Jenna Ingham introduced Shreya Bhardwaj, the new teen representative, who reported that The EB Performers Club and the Geek League both met in May. The virtual library connection will start later this month.

Mr. Bobish reported that the Foundation Board did not meet this month.

Mayor Cohen reported that the township is slowly reopening, with the vaccination rate over 70% within the township. Masks are no longer required in township buildings. Mayor Cohen mentioned the wonderful program, “Jewish Responses to the Shoah,” which was produced by Michael Kesler and sponsored by the Library Foundaton, and reinforced how critically important this ongoing series is.

Treasurers Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer’s report, the monthly statistics, and the reserve and bank reports. Ms. Albanese reported that the up-to-date payroll expenses should be inputted into Edmunds shortly. Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the June 1 and 23, 2021 bill lists. Ms. Wendell seconded. Voting yes: Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Spadafino, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees:

Building Committee:

The building committee did not meet.

Director’s Report:

Mr. Bobish reported that library administration and managers are preparing for further easing of COVID protocols. Mr. Bobish is working on filling some of the positions in the library that have been vacant, including the full-time Accounting Clerk position. The IT department is collaborating with several township departments, including offering tech classes at the Senior Center, and facilitating Office suite training classes for township personnel. The library will begin to accept book donations on July 1, limiting it to two boxes or bags of books / person / day. Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the May Director’s Report. Ms. Tibbetts seconded. Voting yes: Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Spadafino, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

Old Business:

A. COVID-19 Update

Mayor Cohen would like to move all future Library Board meetings to meet in person, as the township meetings are no longer meeting remotely, and asked if there were any objections. All Board members agreed to this. The township has lifted the mask requirement, making it optional, and the Board agreed to do the same in the Library, in order to keep in alignment with township policies. Mr. Bobish reported that as of July 1, COVID protocols in the library will be relaxed. Public seating will be brought back to the floor, keeping 6’ between the tables

whenever possible, and mask usage will be optional for vaccinated patrons and staff. Staff will not monitor the use of the tables, but sanitizing wipes will be available for public use. The quarantine of returned books will cease, as many LMxAC libraries have already done, or plan to do shortly. Staff will no longer be required to do a daily temperature check or fill out the health assessment form. The meeting rooms will not be open yet, as Mr. Bobish would like for the new Director to weigh in on that decision. The Board had no objections to any of these policy changes.

B. Application for Construction Bond Round 2

Mr. Bobish reported that the application was submitted before the deadline. He thanked all of the consultants and staff who helped with the submission. There is no word on when the grant announcement will be made.

New Business:

A. 2022 Schedule of Days Closed

Mayor Cohen suggested that this be tabled until the next meeting in order that the recent addition of Juneteenth as a Federal Holiday be discussed with the attorney.

Information Items:

Mr. Arthur gave some closing remarks and shared that he is excited to begin his tenure here as Library Director. There being no further business, Ms. Wendell made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Mr. Verma seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Nicole Tibbetts, Secretary