

East Brunswick Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 21, 2024

Attendees:

Otu Amankwah
Dr. Joyce Boley
Wayne Christie (arr. 7:25 pm)
Dr. Kenneth Freedman
Joseph Palombit
Colleen Talbot
Ashish Verma (arr. 7:23 pm)

Karen Parry, Interim Library Director
Maria Carmelo, Exec. Admin. Assistant
Eliana Zhang, Teen Representative
Mayor Brad Cohen

Mr. Amankwah called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. A roll call was made and a quorum was present. Mr. Amankwah stated that the meeting was advertised and the Open Public Meeting Act requirements were met.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of April 18, 2024:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2024 meeting.
Dr. Boley seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Boley, Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Closed Session Minutes of April 18, 2024:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the closed session minutes of the April 18, 2024 meeting.
Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Boley, Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Public Participation:

Ms. Zhang presented the Teen Report. 31 volunteers attended the April TAG meeting. 45 volunteers assisted the Circulation and Teen departments. The Teens held a 2 week 3D software workshop and hosted a Ceramic Planters Paint Party. The Teens have been accepting volunteer applications and will be holding an orientation in May.

Ms. LeSeur was unable to attend this evening's meeting but she did send a report, sharing that the Friends had two successful events in April. "What's it Worth" had 40 attendees who were very pleased with the program and the Bling Sale this past weekend was a huge success and the community loved it. The Friends raised \$4,467.00 at the Bling Sale plus over \$700.00 with the ongoing Pop Up Bling Sale in the display cabinet up by the Circulation department.

There was no Foundation Report.

Colleen Talbot presented the Township Report. The Township is working on a few new projects, including a Drug Alliance program with the Library and a "Proud to be Stigma Free" project

with Dr. Lou Figueroa. The Township of East Brunswick and VFW Post 133 are hosting the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall at the East Brunswick Community Arts Center, 721 Cranbury Road, from May 22nd through Memorial Day. The welcome ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 22nd with a Motorcade escort at 10:15 am. The opening ceremony will begin on Thursday, May 23rd at 10:00 am, East Brunswick Township's Memorial Day program is scheduled for Sunday, May 26th at 10:00 am and the VFW Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at 10:00 am on Monday, May 27th. The Traveling Vietnam Wall is an 80% replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and contains the names of U.S. Military personnel who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Accompanying the Wall will be Cost of Freedom tributes to every U.S. military action after World War I, including September 11th. More information including a full schedule of events is available on the East Brunswick Township website.

In the School District Report, Dr. Boley shared that high school students will be visiting the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall on May 22nd and May 23rd. From May 10th through June 7th, 300 pieces of artwork created by Kindergarten through 12th grade students are being displayed at the municipal complex, accompanied by music in this year's Art Walk. The school year is coming to an end with 18 school days remaining and the High School will be welcoming their new Principal, Dr. Edward Bucior, on July 1st.

There were no public comments.

Financial Report:

In the Financial Report, Ms. Parry shared that the library will be spending some of the funds from unrestricted reserves on separating the library servers from the rest of the township in an effort to avoid a potential ransomware attack that could affect the town and its residents.

Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the May 22, 2024 bill list. Mr. Christie seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Talbot and Mr. Verma. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees:

There were no reports of standing or special committee reports.

Director's Report:

Ms. Parry presented the Director's Report. In a continuing effort to provide safety measures to library staff and patrons, meetings have been held and future meetings have been scheduled with the East Brunswick Police Department and other Township Departments to procure a cohesive emergency action plan. Tomorrow, May 22nd is the library's annual Staff Development Day and the library will be closed to the public for the entire day. A presenter from Rutgers is scheduled

to present an “Emotional and Mental Workshop” and a Polaris training will be provided to all staff. Polaris is the new library catalog platform that LMxAC is planning to officially launch on June 13th. May is Mental Health Awareness month and a table has been set up in the lobby of the library with many useful resources pertaining to mental health. The library will have a tent at the Community Arts Center for the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall event. The library also displayed a table in the lobby from May 8th through May 15th in honor of ALS Awareness week. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord. Roughly 1 in 400 people will develop ALS in their lifetime.

Mr. Palombit made a motion to approve the April 2024 Director’s Report. Mr. Christie seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Talbot and Mr. Verma. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Closed Session:

Dr. Freedman made a motion to enter closed session at 8:17 pm. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Talbot and Mr. Verma. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

The Board returned to open session at 8:55 pm.

Information Items:

There were no information items.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Palombit made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Dr. Freedman seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Wayne Christie, Secretary