

East Brunswick Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 25, 2021

Attendees:

JoAnn Chmielowicz	Mike Bobish, Acting Library Director
Mayor Brad Cohen, President	Daragh McAuley, Exec. Administrative Ass't.
Dr. Ken Freedman	Karen Karnchanapee, Pres., Friends of the Library
Patricia Palumbo, Vice-President	Linda Carbley, Pres., Friends of the Library
Aarti Punjabi, Treasurer	Martha Hess, Reference Librarian
Nicole Tibbetts, Secretary	Melissa Hozik, Adult Programming Librarian
Ashish Verma (Arr 7:35)	Alpesh Shah, IT Manager
Barbara Wendell	Angel Albanese, EB Township CFO
	Anushka Karande, 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. Tibbetts made a motion to adopt the May 25, 2021 agenda. Ms. Wendell seconded. Voting yes: Ms. Chmielowicz, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi, Ms. Tibbetts and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: none.

Minutes of April 27, 2021 Regular Session and Closed Session Meetings:

Ms. Punjabi made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 regular and closed session meetings. Ms. Chmielowicz seconded. Voting yes: Ms. Chmielowicz, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi, Ms. Tibbetts and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

Public Participation:

Karen Karnchanapee, co-President of the Friends of the Library, thanked Mayor Cohen for his help in obtaining free storage space for donated books at Cube Smart for 2 years. The Friends Presidents will meet with Mayor Cohen and the Library Director on a regular basis. The Book Sale is set to start on October 10 at the Brunswick Square Mall. The yard sale and the recent Panera Fundraiser were both successful. The slate of Officers for 2021-2022 was approved at the May 13th meeting, and Linda Carbley will be the President.

Mayor Cohen introduced the new Library Director, John Arthur, who shared a brief biography of his work history.

Anushka Karande, the teen representative, reported that April was a busy month with a DIY mini notebook program, a TAG meeting and an EB Meds Unite Meeting, among other activities. NJ Maker's Week wrapped up in April, and 181 volunteer hours were logged in the month.

Mr. Bobish reported that the Foundation Board met on May 5 and discussed the search for new Board members and the children's room renovation project. The Foundation Board decided to help fund Phase II of the project.

Mayor Cohen reported that the Town Council approved a pilot tax-incentive program for the Redevelopment area. The township is looking to make this a unique high-end project, with potentially a site for a second library.

Mary Pan, an East Brunswick resident, asked a question about Governor Murphy's lifting of the mask mandate, and how the library will handle this. Mr. Bobish responded that the library will still require masks and social distancing for the time being.

Treasurers Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report, the monthly statistics, and the reserve and bank reports. Ms. Chmielowicz made a motion to approve the April 28, and May 26, 2021 bill lists. Mr. Verma seconded. Voting yes: Ms. Chmielowicz, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

Correspondence:

Mr. Bobish shared that a letter was received from Dr. Maslansky, requesting a room rental refund.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees:

Building Committee:

The building committee did not meet.

Finance Committee:

The finance committee met to discuss the budget.

Director's Report:

Mr. Bobish reviewed some highlights of the April Director's report, and reported that he has done some research about installing a test kitchen in the library. This can range from a \$1 million installation to just having kits available. He met with Danielle Micale, Director of the Senior Center, to discuss ways to increase collaboration between the 2 departments. The IT department is looking at ways to offer computer classes at the Senior Center. Mr. Bobish

thanked the Board for the wonderful staff appreciation lunch. He also reported that the YS department will start in-person programming again in June.

Old Business:

A. Covid-19 Update

Mr. Bobish reported that after discussions with Mayor Cohen, it was decided to align Covid safety protocols with that of the township, at the recommendation of JIF. The library will still require masks to be worn and social distancing to be observed for the foreseeable future. The welcome desk will be re-installed to remind the public of this, and Chris Barnes will post this on social media.

B. Application for Construction Bond Round 2

Mr. Bobish reported that all of the components are complete, and he hopes to submit the application by May 31. The town council approved a resolution promising matching funds at their May 24th meeting.

New Business:

A. 2021 Library Budget

Mayor Cohen asked if there were any further questions on the budget, which was discussed at last month's meeting. Ms. Tibbetts made a motion to approve the 2021 library budget. Mr. Verma seconded. Voting yes: Ms. Chmielowicz, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

B. Resolution #10,782 To Apply for Project Grant Funds

Resolution #10,782

To Apply for Project Grant Funds

BE IT RESOLVED that the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees hereby certifies that permission has been granted to apply for the Project grant entitled the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act for the purposes described in the application in the amount of \$1,742,434.

The filing of this application was authorized at the official meeting of the governing body of the East Brunswick Public Library held on May 25, 2021.

Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the above resolution. Ms. Chmielowicz seconded. Voting yes: Ms. Chmielowicz, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

C. Friends Appreciation Gift

Library administration will discuss how to thank the Friends in lieu of the traditional appreciation dinner.

D. Room Rental Refund to Dr. Edward Maslansky

Mr. Bobish explained that Dr. Maslansky is asking for a \$260 refund for meeting room fees he had paid prior to the Covid-19 shutdown. Ms. Palumbo made a motion to approve the refund to Dr. Maslansky. Mr. Verma seconded. Voting yes: Ms. Chmielowicz, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

E. Resolution #10,783 Naming a New Director

Resolution #10,783

Naming a New Director

WHEREAS, the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees (“the Board”) has conducted an exhaustive search for a new Library Director; and

WHEREAS, the applications were carefully reviewed and several candidates were interviewed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that after careful consideration the Library Board of Trustees has offered to John Arthur the position of Director of the East Brunswick Public Library.

Mayor Cohen thanked the search committee for their hard work on this search. He also thanked Mr. Bobish for stepping up as acting Director and doing such a terrific job. Ms. Tibbetts made a motion to approve the above resolution. Ms. Wendell seconded. Voting yes: Ms. Chmielowicz, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi, Ms. Tibbetts, Mr. Verma and Ms. Wendell. Voting no: None.

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 8:17 pm. Mr. Verma seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Nicole Tibbetts, Secretary