

## **Board of Trustees Minutes –APR 16, 2024**

**Call to Order:** The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of Elizabeth, NJ, was held in person and remotely via Zoom on APRIL 16, 2024. Mr. Eloy Delgado called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. **A quorum was established by roll call.**

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Eloy Delgado, Dorothy McMullen, Earnestine Smith, Lorraine Tidd; Martin Weingast and Julia Krisanits-Lehman via zoom. Absent: Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres. Also present were Mary Faith Chmiel, Library Director, and Helen Speros, Office Manager, taking minutes. Chynice arrives late 5:45pm on zoom

**Announcement of Compliance with The Sunshine Law:** In compliance.

**Welcome to Visitors:** Mr. Eloy Delgado states there are no visitors.

**Comments from the Public:** None.

**READING OF THE MINUTES (MARCH 2024) (Action Item):** It was motioned by Ms. Lorraine Tidd to accept the March 2024 Minutes from the previous meeting and seconded by Dr. Dorothy McMullen. AYES by Acclamation: Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman, Mr. Eloy Delgado, Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Ms. Earnestine Smith, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Lisa Torres, NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Ms. Chynice Roman.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT (March 2024) (Action Item):**

- In Lisa’s absence MaryFaith covers. Personnel line is problematic. Salaries. Health benefits 98k, Pension benefits. The pension line is in arrears. It looks like we are in decent shape, but after pensions, health benefits and prescriptions are paid, we will be in the red. Mary Faith has written to Tony regarding concern for our budget. The city needs to give us more money. Insurance costs are high \$200,000. We are also undergoing Union negotiations and have pending increases in salaries. MaryFaith explains we pay health benefits for our retired employees of 25 years. Martin Weingast states there is a discrepancy in the 2 reports page six and page 8 of \$100,000. Mary Faith will report back as to the discrepancies on Roel’s reports. Advised staff to budget for programming and supplies. Insurance costs have gone up; our agent said to budget for \$200,000. Our broker has shopped around. MaryFaith wrote to Tony at City Hall because the personnel line has a shortfall; he said we had to work with what we have. For the HVAC upgrade we applied for 135k in incentives which we have not yet received. The city is supposed to give another 50K for the HVAC. These two funds would help us stay afloat. Our historic document sold however the funds belong to LHR. MFC states balance is 605k for all accounts and biweekly payroll is about 103k.

Mr. Eloy Delgado asks if anyone has questions regarding the Treasurer Report. It was motioned by Dr. Dorothy McMullen to accept the Treasurer’s Report and seconded by Ms. Lorraine Tidd. AYES: Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman, Eloy Delgado, Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Ms. Earnestine Smith, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Mr. Martin Weingast. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Pearl Serratelli. Chynice joins Zoom from her car in the parking lot at 5:45 pm.

**PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BILLS (Mar 2024) (Action Item):** Mr. Martin Weingast motions for approval to pay the bills. It was seconded by Ms. Earnestine Smith to accept the Bills List. AYES: Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman, Mr. Eloy Delgado, Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Ms. Earnestine Smith, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Mr. Martin Weingast, Chynice Roman. NAYS: none. Absent: Lisa Torres, Ms. Pearl Serratelli.

**REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:** None

**REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:** None

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Consult your packet for the complete report.

MaryFaith discusses the following:

- Submitted the FY24-25 budget request to the city.
- The reverse energy auction did not meet our expectations; we will participate in another auction in the future.
- Submitted FY2025 Congressionally Directed spending request to Senator Booker for fan coil units, air handlers and a solar canopy in the parking lot.
- LMxAC is rebranding to STELLA as many Union County libraries are joining. They are also moving forward with the migration to a new ILS, Polaris. View here at <https://lmaxac.org/upgrade/>.
- Work on the Elmora roof has resumed 4/10. Allocations of funds are being determined.
- Staff Development Day 5/10/24; the library is closed and we budgeted \$500 for lunch for approximately 50-55 people.
- Hacked again PNC Operating account. Looking to switch banks.
- Reports - Other Departments

\_\_\_\_\_ motions to accept the Director's Report. It was seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ YES by acclamation: Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman, Mr. Eloy Delgado, Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Ms. Earnestine Smith, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Mr. Martin Weingast, Chynice Roman, Lisa Torres. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Pearl Serratelli.

**READING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS:** Financial Disclosure Statements

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Increasing Pricing on BW photocopying – remains the same

**NEW BUSINESS:** Budget for FY24-25

**CLOSED SESSION/ OPEN SESSION:**

Ms. Earnestine Smith motions to go into closed session and it was seconded by Mr. Martin Weingast. AYES: Martin Weingast, Dorothy McMullen, Chynice Roman, Eloy Delgado, Julia Krisanits-Lehman, Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith, Lisa Torres. NAYS: none. Absent: Pearl Serratelli.

**OPEN SESSION:** Dr. Dorothy McMullen motions to approve Robin from PT Security to FT Library Assistant and it was seconded by Ms. Chynice Roman. AYES: Martin Weingast, Dorothy McMullen, Chynice Roman, Eloy Delgado, Julia Krisanits-Lehman, Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith, Lisa Torres. NAYS: none. Absent: Pearl Serratelli.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Lisa Torres motions to adjourn at 7:20pm and it was seconded by Dr. Dorothy McMullen.

AYES by Acclamation: Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman, Mr. Eloy Delgado, Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Ms. Earnestine Smith, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Lisa Torres, Mr. Martin Weingast, Chynice Roman. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Pearl Serratelli.

Submitted by Helen Speros