

Board of Trustees Minutes –FEB 20, 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 February 20, 2024. Ms. Pearl Serratelli called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm. **A quorum was established by roll call.**

ROLL CALL:

Present: Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Martin Weingast, Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman.
Absent: Eloy Delgado, Earnestine Smith, Lorraine Tidd. Also present were Mary Faith Chmiel, Library Director, Assistant Director, Robert Barbanell; and Helen Speros, Office Manager, taking minutes.

Announcement of Compliance with The Sunshine Law: In compliance.

Welcome to Visitors: Ms. Pearl Serratelli states there are no visitors. Welcome new Trustees.

Comments from the Public: None.

READING OF THE MINUTES (DECEMBER 2023) (Action Item):

Mr. Eloy Delgado joins on zoom.

It was motioned by Dr. Dorothy McMullen to accept the December 2023 Minutes from the previous meeting on December 19, 2023 and seconded by Ms. Lisa Torres. AYES by Acclamation: Martin Weingast, Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Eloy Delgado. Abstention: Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman NAYS: none. Absent: Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith.

TREASURER’S REPORT (Jan/Feb 2024) (Action Item): sent separately and handed out.

Elmora Roof is being done. Next will be the floors. Need more funding from City. Our balance is \$343,000, after accounting to mandatory expenses like payroll, health benefits and pension payments. Sotheby’s did not sell our item.

Ms. MaryFaith Chmiel asks if anyone has questions regarding the Treasurer Report and asks for a motion to accept. It was motioned by Ms. Pearl Serratelli accept the Treasurer’s Report and seconded by Ms. Chynice Roman. AYES: Martin Weingast, Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Eloy Delgado, Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman. Abstention: None NAYS: none. Absent: Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith.

PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BILLS (Jan/Feb 2024) (Action Item):

- Frank Cyrus will be reimbursed through state library for the Elmora roof contract.
- MaryFaith explains we pay health benefits for our retired employees of 25 years.

Ms. Pearl Serratelli motions for approval to pay the bills. It was seconded by Dr. Dorothy McMullen to accept the Bills List. AYES: Martin Weingast, Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Eloy Delgado, Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman. Abstention: None NAYS: none. Absent: Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith.

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:

- Patron overdosed- Frankie (Security) administered CPR and 3 doses of Narcam were administered by library visitors; patron survived.
- Gas auction and electric auction- savings due to new HVAC system
- Elmora parking lot project amount 331k but we only spent 111k. State Library money. Trying to get approval to use remaining on sidewalks, driveway apron, curbing, 3 dirt pads for 3 trees, Sign Library Parking Only, ramp to front door.
- Tax appointments will open 2/26 for March. February booked.
- Increased numbers in items checked out
- HVAC- Contractor must come back and paint the floor in the boiler room.
- Chimney is uncapped but the sides were done
- Air handlers in tech services are taken care of
- Hole in boiler room window fixed with a piece of Plexiglas.
- Insurance is expensive. The city owns the building but does not pay the insurance.
- Paulo retired 1-31-2024 and Edwin will be Building Super for Maintenance and IT.
- Eliz Destination Marketing electronic kiosks not yet installed.
- We still do not have a truck with a plow. Annual fire alarm inspection at Elmora, passed.
- Maker's Day is approaching 3-16-2024
- Elmora has many activities and events such as Zumba, Tai-Chi, 100 books before Kindergarten, Clifford the Big Red Dog.
- Britanie managed 23 appointments and she has a Social Worker intern working with her.
- Sotheby's item did not sell.
 - Option 1 Private sale for top dollar offer of \$160k: Counter at \$175k take no lower than \$160k.
 - Option 2 Have the item returned to library and wait 1 year to re-auction.

Mr. Martin Weingast motions for Option 1: Counter 175 and accept no lower than 160; seconded by Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman. AYES by Acclamation: Martin Weingast, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Eloy Delgado, Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman. Abstention: Pearl Serratelli NAYS: none. Absent: Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith.

- Reports - Other Departments

Ms. Pearl Serratelli motions to accept the Directors Report and is seconded by Dr. Dorothy McMullen. AYES: Martin Weingast, Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Eloy Delgado, Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman. Abstention: None NAYS: none. Absent: Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith.

READING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS:

Annual letter from NJ State Library

Reappointment Letter / Appointment Letter

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sotheby's Auction

NEW BUSINESS:

Installation of Officers

Committee Appointments

Resolution on Electricity Auction

Resolution in honor of the late Ted Freedman, Trustee

CLOSED SESSION/ OPEN SESSION:

Closed Session motioned by Ms. Chynice Roman motions to accept the Directors Report and is seconded by Dr. Dorothy McMullen. AYES: Martin Weingast, Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Eloy Delgado, Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman. Abstention: None NAYS: none. Absent: Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith.

OPEN SESSION

Dorothy McMullen motioned to come out of Closed Session; Chynice Roman seconded. Passed by Acclamation.

New hires: Angela, Layla, Kelly, Melissa, Brian, Flor and promote Melissa.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Dorothy McMullen motioned to adjourn at 7:15pm; seconded by Ms. Lisa Torres. AYES by Acclamation: Martin Weingast, Pearl Serratelli, Lisa Torres, Dorothy McMullen, Chynice Roman, Julia Krisanits-Lehman. Abstention: None NAYS: none. Absent: Lorraine Tidd, Earnestine Smith, Eloy Delgado.

Submitted by Helen Speros