

Board of Trustees Minutes –MAY 21, 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 MAY 21, 2024. Mr. Eloy Delgado called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm. **A quorum was established by roll call.**

ROLL CALL: Present: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen, via zoom. Absent: Lisa Torres, Earnestine Smith. Also present were Mary Faith Chmiel, Library Director, and Helen Speros, Office Manager, taking minutes.

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 (APRIL 16, 2024) (Action Item): It was motioned by Ms. Lorraine Tidd to accept the April 2024 Minutes from the previous meeting and seconded by Dr. Dorothy McMullen. AYES: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen. NAYS: none. Abstaining: Ms. Pearl Serratelli. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Earnestine Smith

TREASURER’S REPORT (APRIL 2024) (Action Item):

- In Lisa’s absence MaryFaith covers. 49k remains in the budget, pending State billings for Pension and Health Benefits. The Library awaits 21k from the city for HVAC upgrades and an additional 50k from city for another aspect of HVAC; plus the Library had been approved for \$135k in State energy incentives that have yet to be received. Current salary increases of 4%, followed by 3% in July 2024, are estimated to cost \$178k. We have some staff leaving and retiring who will not be replaced until 7/2024. Additional \$500K has been requested in the budget for 2024-2025.

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

PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF BILLS (MAY 2024) (Action Item):

The current budget is being watched very closely, and some databases could be on the block. Insurance consultant Bill Malone suggests a molestation and sexual harassment policy that is currently unaffordable. Newspapers cost approximately \$800/month. The Library works with Literary NJ on State grant money; our portion typically goes toward the funding of databases; \$27k is anticipated for databases.

Mr. Eloy Delgado motions for approval to pay the bills. It was motioned by Ms. Lorraine Tidd to accept the Bills List and seconded by Ms. Chynice Roman. AYES: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Pearl

Serratelli, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. 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:

- Mary Faith and Roel met with Citizen's Bank and Chase Bank. Chase offers free money bags with a 100k balance. PNC deducts 750/QTR fees analysis. Martin Weingast asks how much we have in total. MaryFaith says we had 1.2 million, now only 600,000. Capital One did not call back.
- Received good reports on Staff development day. Mary Faith walked the staff through a review of the Union contract.
- Senator Menendez did not show on 5/21/24; sent 2 aides.
- More work needs to be done on HVAC, as debris is coming out of cooling tower. A contract is needed to treat water.
- There were 2 requests for video camera footage. 1 of the county employee fall on grate. 1 was a trafficking concern. In addition, a child said he was assaulted on our grounds out of sight of camera view.
- Still sorting out the State funding for the Construction Bond projects. Elmora roof is on hiatus; 3 layers of stucco being applied at main, on the staff elevator shaft.
- We are transitioning to new catalog app; migrating to Polaris which is more contemporary looking.
- Annual inspection of fire alarm
- Edwin plans the construction of a wall to separate the offices for Wanda and Britanie
- Ten children's chairs will be reupholstered with Judy Bloom money.
- Prosecutor's office finished using our parking lot.
- MaryFaith and Aimee went to the Elizabeth Garden Club Tea, and took possession of the Club's archives.
- Clifford has accumulated free bibles which are distributed to the community.
- Elmora book sale is set for 8/3/24 for 1 week. The mayor has visited the park when Martha has done storytimes there.
- The thrift store organized by Alex L. went well with 120 people gathering free clothing. Donations are already being received for a follow-up event.

Mr. Eloy Delgado asks for a motions for approval of the Director's Report. It was motioned by Ms. JuliaKrisanits-Lehman to accept the Director's Report and seconded by Ms. Chynice Roman. AYES: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Earnestine Smith.

READING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS:

- We continue to be notified of unauthorized Bank Debits at PNC Bank.
- A Fernandez-Puente Tuition Reimbursement - It was motioned by Mr. Eloy Delgado and seconded by Mr. Martin Weingast according to the contract to re-imburse Aimee. AYES by Acclamation: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Earnestine Smith
- Prosecutor's Case-we received a subpoena asking for footage from video cameras

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Voting on Union Contract / MOU It was motioned by Ms. Pearl Serratelli and seconded by Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman. AYES by Acclamation: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Earnestine Smith

NEW BUSINESS: Banking Options

CLOSED SESSION/ OPEN SESSION: It was motioned by Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and seconded by Ms. Pearl Serratelli to go into Closed session. AYES by Acclamation: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Earnestine Smith

It was motioned by Martin Weingast, seconded by Chynice Roman to come out of Closed Session. AYES: by Acclamation: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen. NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Earnestine Smith

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

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

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

Building Issues discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Eloy Delgado calls for adjournment at 6:55pm and was seconded by Mr. Martin Weingast. AYES by Acclamation: Mr. Eloy Delgado, Ms. Chynice Roman, Ms. Lorraine Tidd, Ms. Pearl Serratelli, Mr. Martin Weingast, Ms. Julia Krisanits-Lehman and Dr. Dorothy McMullen NAYS: none. Absent: Ms. Lisa Torres, Ms. Earnestine Smith

Submitted by Helen Speros