

Board of Trustees Minutes – September 12, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of Elizabeth, NJ, was held on September 12, 2018. President Ted Freedman called the meeting to order at 5:36pm. A quorum was established by roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eloy Delgado, Ted Freedman, Aaron Goldblatt, Kristin Kelly, Anne Russell, and Connie Pires Sanchez. Absent: Kenyetta Jackson (Excused), Pearl Serratelli (Excused), and Earnestine Smith (Excused).

Ms. Chmiel, Library Director, announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided in the Star Ledger. Also, an announcement was posted on the bulletin boards of the Main Library and its branches.

Visitors: Rev. George Britt, inquiring after the Board's position regarding Mr. Ismial's petition, presented at the August meeting, asking for the Director's resignation. Mr. Freedman, Board President, thanked the visitor and replied that no decision had been reached as of yet, and that any further discussion would be taken up in Closed Session.

MINUTES

In Page 11 line 12 "It was moved by Ms. Russell" should say, it was moved by Ms. Serratelli. Correction will apply for record.

It was moved by Mr. Delgado, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to approve the minutes from the August 7th Board of Trustees meeting. Vote: By Acclamation. Abstentions – Eloy Delgado and Mrs. Connie Pires Sanchez

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Delgado Treasurer proceeded to present the report.

- Some lines increased, for instance: pension, health benefits; everything was under budget parameters. We are in good standing Mr. Delgado added.

- Ms. Chmiel stated that the Library is looking to hire more staff due to increases in programming and building attendance. Improvements to Eport Branch will take place; reconditioning the parking lot and opening late Thursday nights are also on the Library agenda.
- It was moved by Ms. Russell, seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the September Treasurer's report. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Eloy Delgado, Mr. Ted Freedman, Mr. Aaron Goldblatt, Ms. Kristin Kelly, Ms. Anne Russell and Mrs. Connie Pires Sanchez. Nays – none. Abstentions - none.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS:

- Driftwood Millwork (acrylic screen installation) comes out of Capital Funds for Bathroom Improvements
- 3Form/Adam Cross created the acrylic screen. Total cost for the screen and its installation was about \$9,000.
- We work with Otterstedt Insurance Agency, which was referred to us by the City of Elizabeth. It is the agency's responsibility to find us the best value to meet our needs.
- It was moved by Mr. Delgado seconded by Mrs. Pires Sanchez to approve September 1st Presentation of Bills. Vote: Ayes – Mr. Eloy Delgado, Mr. Ted Freedman, Mr. Aaron Goldblatt, Ms. Kristin Kelly, Ms. Anne Russell and Mrs. Connie Pires Sanchez. Nays – none. Abstentions - none.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Freedman will bring a concern he has in Closed Session.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

No meetings

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Consult your packet for the complete report. Highlights include:

- Ms. Chmiel recommends new carpeting and fresh paint as the 20 year lease at the Eport Branch expires (this would be considered a tenant responsibility). Security is also an issue at Eport Branch, Ms. Chmiel added. Mr. Freedman inquired when the Operation and Facilities Committee field trip to Eport would take place. A time of Monday September 17, 2018 around 4:00PM was set-up.

NEW BUSINESS

- A new motor for the cooling tower cost \$5,300. The Library continues to press forward with an energy savings grant with Willdan, with the hope of superseding our current water-cooling system (tower, chiller, purger) with an air-condenser system.

GROUNDWORK ELIZABETH

Jonathan Phillips, Director of Groundwork Elizabeth, and Jackie Park Albaum, also of GWE, presented their future plans for Elmora's back yard. A packet was distributed and explained in detail.

1. Jerry's Greenhouse/AgLab
2. Bee Habitat
3. Rain Garden
4. Outdoor Classroom + Future Pergola
5. Elizabeth BOE Education Station
6. White Picket Fence + Arbors
7. Permaculture Orchard + Memorial Path
8. EPL Teaching Garden
9. EPL Storage Shed + NEW Mural
10. Demonstration Crop Field with Hugelkultur edging
11. Market Garden

12. Handicap Accessible Trail
13. Insectary + Butterfly Garden
14. Food Forest Plantings + Rain Garden
15. Storage Area
16. Mushroom Yard
17. Water and Power Trench
18. “Annette’s Garden”

Jonathan Phillips stated that they are using Shoprite’s parking facilities when hosting volunteers.

It was moved by Mr. Delgado seconded by Mrs. Pires Sanchez to approve Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property, except thirty-nine (39) red children’s chairs, 22” in overall height. Vote: By acclamation. Nays – none. Abstentions - none.

- The meeting was concluded due to lack of quorum at 7:07pm.

Submitted by Ana V. Monje-Medina.