

**MINUTES
OF THE EDISON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

Present: Patricia Massey, Fiona Meade, Lisa Krauze, Sue Cason O'Neill, David Ye, Jyothi Pamidimukkala, Tony DePasquale

Absent: Neville Arestani, Mohin Patel

Also Present: Dominick Bratti (Board Attorney), Allan Kleiman (Library Director), Debra Sarr (Assistant Director)

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. She led the Salute to the Flag and read the Open Public Meetings statement; roll call was taken.

Special Presentation on the Strategic Plan

Presented by: Alan Burger, Library Development Solutions

Mr. Burger spoke of changes to the Library due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and how these changes have changed the needs of Edison residents. He gave a brief overview of the Edison Speaks report and recommendations for the Library and the Board of Trustees based on community responses.

The survey received over 1,400 responses with at least 3,500 comments about the Library and potential improvements. Eight focus group conversations were held with the community and staff. The results and recommendations include a re-imagining, repositioning, and rebranding of the Library. The goal being to create the Library of the future that people are compelled to visit.

Mr. Burger and the Library Board discussed surprises in the responses to the survey and future dreams for the Library.

On motion and second (O'Neill, DePasquale), the minutes of the regular meeting of October 12, 2021 were approved. On roll call: yes – Massey, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Krauze; abstain: Ye; absent – Arestani, Patel

On motion and second (Krauze, DePasquale), the minutes of the special session on October 18, 2021 were approved. On roll call: yes – Meade, O'Neill, Krauze, Massey, Ye, De Pasquale; abstain - Pamidimukkala, absent – Arestani, Patel

President's Report:

Ms. Massey thanked the Burgers for their report on the strategic plan and Alan's presentation, noting it is great to hear about the community involvement.

She attended the monthly Trustee Check-in. The next Trustee Check-in will be held November 18.

She also attended the NJLA Information Equity Conference including sessions on equity, diversity, and inclusion. It is an important focus. She noted Allan was a presenter.

Ms. Massey thanked the staff for the positive things happening at the Library.

Financial Report:

No questions regarding report.

Bill list on motion and second (O'Neill, Pamidimukkala) dated October 31, 2021 was approved. On roll call: yes - Meade, O'Neill, Ye, DePasquale, Krauze, Pamidimukkala, Massey; absent – Arestani, Patel

Questions were raised about the number of smaller orders for Baker & Taylor and three annual inspection charges.

Director's Report:

Mr. Kleiman thanked the staff for keeping the Library running while he was on vacation.

He mentioned Debra's monthly report outlined what was happening in the Library branches and that future reports will, from time to time, concrete on single departments so the board has a better sense of what the staff is doing and accomplishing.

Mr. Kleiman is working on obtaining space in the Menlo Park Mall. He is also investigating some pop up potential locations which will probably require payment. In particular, Mr. Kleiman is looking at Route 1 by Shoprite where Monster Golf is. This would be a great location as it is so close to Edison High School.

Mr. Kleiman stated Carolyn and Charlie have started visiting schools. The most popular youth library programs have been dealing with STEAM and STEM. The Library is continuing to look at other ways to grow the library's technology.

Mr. Kleiman also stated the goal is to not have the library buildings be warehouses, but to go where the people are. Dozens of kids go to Shoprite after school, perhaps the space by Shoprite should not be a traditional library but more of a discovery center.

Menlo Park Mall's old information desk is a potential pop-up location with lockers.

The Library is just starting to explore the options. Including, possibly even registering people for library cards outside of Shoprite. Staff need to be out where people are, not waiting for patrons to come in to the library.

Two library goals include a five to seven percent increase each year with new borrowers and engaging borrowers in new ways.

Ms. Meade mentioned there may be some open space over by the Stop and Shop where PNC Bank used to be that should be considered as a potential location.

Ms. O'Neill suggested the Library consider offering goodie bags at Menlo Park Mall to introduce the library to people visiting Santa.

Mr. Kleiman noted that anyone with similar ideas should please let him know.

Long term the Library may need to consider a reorganization of the library to make the library organization fit the mission of Library.

Finally, the holiday staff and trustee party is Friday, December 10 from 5:30-8:00pm at the Main Library on the second floor.

Committee Reports

No news about Library Construction Bond Grant.

Strategic Planning Committee has been reported on.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

None

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:00pm on Zoom. The Board wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Diwali to those who celebrate.

On motion and second (Meade, DePasquale) the meeting was adjourned.