

MINUTES
OF THE EDISON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF March 8, 2022

Present: Patricia Massey, Fiona Meade, Sue Cason O'Neill, Jyothi Pamidimukkala, Tony DePasquale, Brian Rivera

Absent: Lisa Krauze (excused), Ray Alcantara (excused), Neville Arestani

Also Present: Dominick Bratti (Board Attorney), Allan Kleiman (Library Director), Debra Sarr (Assistant Director), Joyce Ship Freeman (Council Liaison)

The President called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. She led the Salute to the Flag and read the Open Public Meetings statement; roll call was taken.

On motion and second (O'Neill, DePasquale), the minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2022 were approved. Roll call vote: yes – Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Rivera, Massey; absent- Krauze, Alcantara, Arestani

President's Report:

The President stated February was a busy month. The Library hosted several excellent programs including the Lunar New Year event at Main. It was fabulous to see so many families out and the Mayor as well. The President also attended the Black Artist Event and the online program of Black History in New Jersey presented by the Metuchen Edison Historical Society. She thanked the staff members who pull the programs together.

She also noted that today is International Women's Day and this is Women's History Month.

The President, Allan and Debra had a productive meeting with Mayor Joshi and she hopes we can meet on a regular basis for check-ins.

She encourages all community members to stop by the library for a library card, sign up for the newsletter, and check the Library's website. National Library Week will be April 3rd to the 9th. Please check out the available programs.

Financial Report:

No questions on the report. The Finance Committee will meet for the library administration to present the 2022 budget.

On motion and second (O'Neill, Pamidimukkala), the bill list of March 8 was approved. Roll call vote: yes-Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Rivera, Massey; absent: Krauze, Alcantara, Arestani

The President announced Ms. Joyce Ship Freeman is the new Council Liaison.

Director's Report:

Mr. Kleiman mentioned the previous meeting with Mayor Joshi who is receptive and supportive of ideas for the library in the future.

At the State of the Township dinner, the construction plans for the North Edison branch were on display and Mayor Joshi referred to them during his speech.

All drawings from the application are now on display in the Children's Room of the North Branch for staff and patrons to see.

The Menlo Park Mall experience was overall positive. The only negative was that the Library's branding was limited due to it being an information booth. The Library is looking at options to be there for summer reading. It was a good opportunity to build a relationship with the mall and the Library will be at the mall during Easter for storytimes.

Mr. Kleiman will be going to Portland for the Public Library Association Conference. He will be meeting with RFID and other vendors while there.

The final draft of the strategic plan is expected to be released to the Strategic Planning Committee. Hopefully it will come to the Board in April or May. Alan and Leslie Burger will be available to answer questions. It is an ambitious plan that, hopefully, will make the Library one of the centers of the Edison community.

Mr. Alcantara will be the Township point of contact for the Library in regards to the construction at the North Edison Branch.

Committee Reports:

The Facilities and Bookmobile Committee did not meet last month.

This month the Financial Committee will meet.

The Materials Review Committee met. This committee reviews any concerns about library materials and the Collection Development Policy. A policy draft should be ready hopefully in April.

The Personnel Committee met to discuss the nonunion staff.

On motion and second (O'Neill, DePasquale) the resolution for the nonunion staff was passed. Roll call vote: yes- Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Rivera, Massey; absent: Alcantara, Krauze, Arestani

Unfinished Business:

The Library will revisit the available dates for the Board Meetings from September through December at the April meeting.

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

Comments were raised regarding the donation bins and the landscaping at the North Edison Branch. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the lack of African American books in the collection.

Announcements:

The next regular meeting is on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM, at Council Chambers.

On motion and second (Meade, Rivera) the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.