

# **MINUTES OF THE EDISON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2022**

Present: Patricia Massey, Lisa Krauze, Fiona Meade, Sue Cason O’Neill, Jyothi Pamidimukkala, Tony DePasquale, Ray Alcantara, Joseph Romano

Absent: Neville Arestani (unexcused),

Also Present: Dominick Bratti (Board Attorney), Joyce Ship-Freeman (Council Liaison) Allan Kleiman (Library Director), Debra Sarr (Assistant Director), Amanda Coyle (Administrative Operations Manager)

The President called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. She led the Salute to the Flag and the Open Public Meetings statement was read; roll call was taken.

## Election of Officers 2023:

Mr. Bratti requested nominations for 2023 board president. Ms. Massey was nominated and seconded (Krauze, O’Neill). Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

Ms. Massey requested nominations for 2023 board vice president. Ms. Krauze was nominated and seconded (O’Neill, Meade). Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

Ms. Massey requested nominations for 2023 board secretary. Ms. Meade was nominated and seconded (O’Neill, Krauze). Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

Ms. Massey requested nominations for 2023 board treasurer. Ms. O’Neill was nominated and seconded (Krauze, Meade). Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O’Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

Mr. DePasquale commented that it is good to rotate officers. Ms. Meade agreed that in the future change could be good but not at this time.

## Resolutions:

On motion and second (DePasquale, Alcantara) the proposed meeting dates for 2023 were approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

Mr. Alcantara discussed his intention to request tabling the resolutions for approving the library auditor, accountant, attorney and official bank in order for other options to be considered.

Mr. Bratti voiced his dissent to tabling the resolution to approve the library attorney.

On motion and second (DePasquale, Alcantara) it was requested to table the resolutions for approving the library auditor, accountant, attorney and official bank for 30 days. Discussion followed. On motion and second (Krauze, Meade) it was requested to amend the request to table only the resolutions for approving the library auditor, accountant, and official bank for 30 days. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

On motion and second (Alcantara, DePasquale) it was requested to table the resolutions for approving the library attorney for 30 days. Roll call vote: yes- DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano; no - Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, Massey; absent- : Arestani

Mr. Bratti stated he would be taking one hour off his bill per Mr. Romano's request to have his time back.

On motion and second (Alcantara, Krauze) it was requested to extend the items for the auditor, accountant, and bank for 30 days. On motion and second (Massey, Krauze) it was requested to amend the extension to 60 days. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

On motion and second (Krauze, O'Neill) the library attorney for 2023 at a rate of \$200.00 per hour was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, Alcantara, Massey; no – DePasquale, Romano; absent- : Arestani

On motion and second (Krauze, Pamidimukkala) the newspapers of records for 2023 were approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Romano, Massey; absent- : Arestani

Mayor Sam Joshi made remarks regarding the possible relocation of the Clara Barton branch.

#### Director's Report:

Mr. Kleiman mentioned that the Chromebooks for the board have arrived.

Mr. Kleiman also discussed personnel changes. Two employees Ms. Cheung and Ms. Robert retired at the end of December.

Mr. Kleiman provided an update on the status of the bookmobile. The bookmobile is ready to be picked up and driven back.

There was no meeting of the Library Foundation this month. The next meeting will be to discuss the establishment of a Friends group and donations.

Mr. Kleiman discussed the Clara Barton branch "relocation". He stated that the search continues for a suitable space.

An update was provided on the North Edison branch. The kick off for the construction project contractors is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Kleiman stated that Bibliotecha has been selected as the vendor for RFID.

Mr. Kleiman discussed the new online event registration system, Communico. The transfer was completed successfully.

#### President's Report:

Ms. Massey stated that she and Director Kleiman had met with the Mayor and there was no intention of closing the Clara Barton Branch. Ms. Massey turned the floor over to Mr. Bratti to provide more detail on the Clara Barton Branch.

Mr. Bratti discussed the process so far in searching for suitable lease space for possible relocation. Mr. Bratti also reminded the public that the Clara Barton branch cannot be closed without it being voted on by the Library Board of Trustees.

#### Public Comment:

Ms. Massey opened the floor for public comment

Members of the public voiced their opposition to the relocation of the Clara Barton branch. The public asked for the Trustees' support in keeping the current branch open.

Ms. Massey thanked the members of the community for their comments.

On motion and second (Krauze, O'Neill) the minutes of the regular open session meeting of December 13, 2022 were approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara , Massey; abstention- Romano; absent- : Arestani

On motion and second (DePasquale, Krauze) the minutes of the closed session meeting of December 13, 2022 were approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, Meade, O'Neill, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Alcantara, Massey; abstention- Romano; absent- : Arestani

#### Financial Reports:

To be discussed at a special meeting on 1/19/2023.

#### Committee Reports:

None

#### Unfinished Business:

Policies still need to be finished

#### New Business:

None

#### Board Members, Comments and Goals:

Mr. DePasquale thanked the public for coming out. He stated that as a group the trustees should look at new and fresh ideas for the residents.

Ms. O'Neill mentioned that she is looking forward to the coming year and the expansion of the North Edison branch and the renovation of the Main branch.

Ms. Meade thanked the public for coming out and expressing their concerns. She encouraged them to attend future library board meetings. She welcomed Mr. Romano to the board.

Mr. Romano discussed his background with the board of education and his intentions to share his feelings at Thursday's Clara Barton Community meeting.

Ms. Krauze stated that she appreciated everyone coming out. She stated that she hopes everyone becomes more active and urged them to get a library card if they did not have one.

Mr. Alcantara thanked the residents for coming out and congratulated the officers on their appointments. Mr. Alcantara mentioned he respectfully disagrees with some of the statements made by the board attorney. He stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone over the next year.

Ms. Massey thanked everyone for coming. She thanked the public for their suggestions and asked them to make sure they have a library card and to join the Friends of the Library when the time comes.

Mr. Kleiman thanked Ms. Ship-Freeman for serving as council liaison and for her continued support of the library.

Closed Session:

Ms. Massey put forth a resolution to go into closed session to discuss contracts and legal issues. On motion and second (Krauze, O'Neill) closed session was entered at 9:31 PM.

Motion to return to open session was issued and seconded (Krauze, DePasquale) at 10:22 PM.

On motion and second (Krauze, O'Neill) the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 PM.