

MINUTES OF THE EDISON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2023

Present: Patricia Massey, Sue Cason O'Neill, Fiona Meade, Jyothi Pamidimukkala, Joseph Romano

Absent: Lisa Krauze (excused), Anthony DePasquale (excused), Catriona Leary (excused), Shreyens Patel

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

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

Voting to approve the minutes of the regular open session meeting of July 11, 2023 was tabled until the next regular session, as Ms. O'Neill abstained since she was unable to attend the meeting.

President's Report:

Ms. Massey announced that the Friends of the Edison Public Library organization meeting will be held at 7:00pm on July 9, 2023 at the Clara Barton Branch. Ms. Massey reminded everyone that the Friends group is for everyone in Edison, not just the Clara Barton Branch.

Ms. Massey mentioned that the Bookmobile was present at the National Night Out event and was a huge hit.

Financial Reports:

No questions were raised on the Operating, Capital, North Edison, or Payroll Accounts.

Questions were raised and discussed regarding the bill list.

The bill list of August 08, 2023 with a grand total of \$187,269.49 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, Romano, Massey: absent- Krauze, DePasquale, Patel, Leary

Director's Report/Assistant Director's Report:

Mr. Kleiman stated that the library has been busier than in the past two years, but is not yet back to pre-covid levels. Programs have been bringing people into the library, especially the Clara Barton Branch.

Mr. Kleiman discussed that homelessness is a big issue currently. The Main branch has an unhoused population; some of whom violate the Library's Rules of Conduct Policy. He is hopeful that the incoming social work intern will be able to assist while getting practical experience.

Mr. Kleiman mentioned that it was phenomenal to have the Bookmobile at National Night Out. Hundreds of people came through.

Mr. Kleiman also mentioned that he attended a veteran's event. He was able to meet with service providers and learn what the VA hospital can do. Mr. Kleiman also attended the Middlesex County Fair. He was able to talk to the 4H and the master gardeners.

Mr. Kleiman spoke about a new construction grant being offered by the State Library to help provide spaces for working, learning, and getting health information.

Ms. Sarr expanded upon the issue with the unhoused population to clarify that the issues were mainly with damages to the building but the individuals themselves have been very pleasant.

Ms. Sarr also stated that Caroline and the librarians have been working on programs for the fall.

Committee Reports:

No committee meetings were held due to summer vacation schedules. The following updates were provided.

Facilities & Bookmobile – Progress continues with the Library Construction Bond project at the North Edison Branch. The engineers are working on cost estimates.

Finance – Communicated but did not meet.

Personnel – Not able to meet.

Policies & Bylaws – Tutoring policy is almost finished.

Strategic Planning – On hold until fall.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

On motion and second (O'Neill, Romano) the resolution to renew the current Certificates of Deposit in the amount of \$500,000, \$500,000 and 1 million dollars

for a total of \$2 million dollars held in TD Bank on their maturity date of 9/11/23 for another 6-months was approved. Roll call vote: yes- O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, Romano, Massey: absent- Krauze, DePasquale, Patel, Leary

Public Comments:

None

Board Comments:

Ms. Harris announced that the Council approved the 2023 budget.

Closed Session:

Ms. Massey put forth a resolution to go into closed session to discuss legal issues. On motion and second (Romano, Pamidimukkala) closed session was entered at 7:39 PM.

Motion to return to open session was issued and seconded (Romano, Pamidimukkala) at 7:52 PM.

Announcements:

The next regular session library board meeting will be held on Tuesday September 12th at 7:00pm.

Ms. Massey announced that next month is National Library Card Sign-up Month.

On motion and second (O'Neill, Meade) the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.