

# **MINUTES OF THE EDISON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF JANUARY 03, 2024**

Present: Patricia Massey, Lisa Krauze, Fiona Meade, Jyothi Pamidimukkala, Anthony DePasquale, Sue Cason O'Neill, Joseph Romano, Catriona Leary

Absent: Shreyens Patel (excused)

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

## Election of Officers 2024:

Mr. Bratti requested nominations for 2024 board president. Ms. Massey was nominated and seconded (O'Neill, Krauze). Mr. DePasquale was nominated and seconded (Romano, Leary) Roll call vote: for Ms. Massey- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, Romano, Massey; for Mr. DePasquale – DePasquale, Leary; absent- : Patel

Ms. Massey elected as 2024 board president.

Ms. Massey requested nominations for 2024 board vice president. Ms. O'Neill was nominated and seconded (Krauze, Romano). Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

Ms. O'Neill elected as 2024 board vice president.

Ms. Massey requested nominations for 2024 board secretary. Ms. Krauze was nominated and seconded (O'Neill, Meade). Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

Ms. Krauze elected as 2024 board secretary.

Ms. Massey requested nominations for 2024 board treasurer. Ms. Meade was nominated and seconded (Krauze, O'Neill). Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

Ms. Meade elected as 2024 board treasurer.

## Resolutions:

On motion and second (Krauze, Leary) the proposed meeting dates for 2024/2025 were approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

On motion and second (Krauze, Pamidimukkala) the resolution to approve Suplee, Clooney & Company as the library auditor for 2024 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, Leary, Romano, Massey; no- DePasquale; absent- : Patel

On motion and second (Romano, Krauze) the resolution to approve Bratti Greenan LLC as the library attorney for 2024 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, Romano, Massey; no- DePasquale, Leary; absent- : Patel

On motion and second (Krauze, DePasquale) the resolution to approve The Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger, and The Sentinel as the newspapers of record for 2024 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

On motion and second (O'Neill, Pamidimukkala) the resolution to approve TD Bank as the bank of record for 2024 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

On motion and second (Romano, DePasquale) the resolution to approve the administrative salaries for 2024 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

On motion and second (Romano, Pamidimukkala) the resolution to approve the closing dates/holidays for 2024 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

## Board Members, Comments, Goals for 2024:

Mr. Romano wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms. Meade stated that she wishes for a peaceful board that can respectfully disagree and that construction gets moving this year.

Ms. Krauze agreed with Ms. Meade. Ms. Krauze stated that she wants a productive year and for things to move forward with the bookmobile and construction.

Ms. Leary thanked everyone for welcoming her to the board and hopes to continue to learn and grow.

Mr. DePasquale raised questions about financial policies and bylaws. Mr. Bratti responded and Mr. Romano also commented.

Ms. Pamidimukkala emphasized that the board is present to represent the community. She stated that she would like to see construction sped up as fast as possible.

Ms. O'Neill stated that she is appreciative of the library taking control of its finances. She is looking forward to construction getting started and is happy about the community involvement of the library.

Ms. Massey stated that she hopes the Friend's group expands. She also hopes that the board works together reviewing bylaws and policies. She is hoping to schedule a board retreat.

#### Resolution to approve minutes:

The minutes of the regular open session meeting of December 12, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent with Ms. Leary and Ms. Pamidimukkala abstaining.

The minutes of the regular closed session meeting of December 12, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent with Ms. Leary and Ms. Pamidimukkala abstaining.

#### President's Report:

Ms. Massey thanked the board for electing her as Board President again and for their confidence.

#### Financial Reports:

Questions were raised on the financial reports and bill list.

On motion and second (Krauze, O'Neill) the bill list dated December 31, 2023 totaling \$322,241.28 was approved. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

On motion and second (Krauze, O'Neill) the 2024 temporary budget was approved for 60 days. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

Director's Report/ Assistant Director's Report:

Mr. Kleiman wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated the officers and stated that he looks forward to working with the board.

Mr. Kleiman provided an update that the new bookmobile will be ready for pickup soon.

Mr. Kleiman thanked the Foundation for supporting the prizes for the winter book challenge.

Mr. Kleiman encouraged all the board members to join the Friends of the Library. The Friends are working to advocate for the Library and raise funds.

Mr. Kleiman stated that the Foundation is looking at a capital campaign to raise money for new furniture and other needs.

Mr. Kleiman provided an update on construction. Next week there will be a meeting with the architects and engineers. It is anticipated that the bids for the Main Branch will go out end of the month or early next month.

Mr. Kleiman discussed the museum passes. The museum passes had to be done by hand and people called in to reserve passes the first day that they were available.

Ms. Sarr mentioned that she and Mr. Kleiman attended a meeting for the new ILS that should be launching in the spring.

Ms. Sarr also stated that she had a productive meeting with members of the Police's Juvenile Department. She hopes to have more programs with them in the future.

Mr. Kleiman attended a reception in Manhattan for one of the Chinese provinces for their annual media event. Books were donated to the library and good contacts were made for future programs.

Committee Reports:

Facilities & Bookmobile – Did not meet.

Finance – Did not meet.

Personnel – Did not meet.

Policies & Bylaws – Did not meet.

Strategic Planning – Did not meet.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Public Comment:

Ms. Massey opened the floor for public comment

Members of the public congratulated the elected officers and discussed their concerns regarding the Clara Barton branch. They also discussed their opinions on programming and ways to improve 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 (Romano, DePasquale) closed session was entered at 8:39 PM. Roll call vote: yes- Krauze, O'Neill, Meade, Pamidimukkala, DePasquale, Leary, Romano, Massey; absent- : Patel

Motion to return to open session was issued and seconded (Meade, Leary) at 9:05 PM.

On motion and second (O'Neill, DePasquale) the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.