

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Longport
February 11, 2019 at 5:00pm

Call to Order: Secretary Elizabeth Peterson-Rici called the meeting to order at 5:02pm

Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Law: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice of this meeting was advertised in The Press of Atlantic City on December 26, 2018 and sent to the Current on December 21, 2018. Notice of this meeting was also posted on the Library's website and in Longport Borough Hall. Official action may be taken at this meeting.

Recording of Attendance: Secretary Elizabeth (Liz) Peterson-Ricci, Treasurer Patricia (Trish) English, President Roy Law, Member Erin Schiavo, Member Damon Tomassi, Mayor Nick Russo, Library Director Ricky Gerhardt (all present for the meeting).

Also in Attendance: No additional people in attendance

Absent: Dolores Wilson/Board Member, Carl Tripician/Board of Education President

Old Business: Approval of minutes from January 14th meeting (Drafts previously distributed to board members). Trish English motioned for approval of minutes, Erin Schiavo seconded the motion, all in favor, none opposed.

Public Comment: none

New Business:

President's Report: Roy Law, President, talked about how the library received an email from a Borough Commissioner that explained that he became aware that library was discussing having an author at the library this summer. Roy reminded the board that we are a public entity and we do a good job of making sure the public is aware of our meetings by sending the dates to the newspaper, posting on our website, and making the minutes available on the website so that the public is aware of library business and the details of the board meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Trish English presented the report that showed deposits and disbursements. Our beginning balance at the beginning of the year was 0 dollars (no funds were deposited yet). There were \$164,240.73 in deposits and 12,352 in disbursements bringing an ending balance to \$151,888.73

Bill Pay List: Trish English motioned to approve the bill pay list. Erin Schiavo seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Director's Report: Ricky talked about the start of the winter/spring concert series. Yoga will be starting next month (a six-week course), and that he had a productive meeting with representatives of the Church of the Redeemer about doing library programs at the church (bigger space to hold more people).

The library also started circulating ROKU streaming devices to Longport patrons as well as two new museum passes (National Museum of American Jewish History and that National Liberty Museum). The library is also looking at adding mobile hotspots in the collection for late spring.

Resolution 2019-6: RESOLUTION AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR CERTAIN LEGAL SERVICES

Ricky talked about that the lawyer, Erin Law, came highly recommended from the Avalon Library. He, Roy, and Pat Agnellini had a very productive meeting with this lawyer. Liz mentioned how her resume was very impressive.

Erin Schiavo motioned to adopt the resolution, Trish English seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Resolution 2019-7: RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEETING SPACE POLICY

Ricky talked about how this policy will allow Longport community organizations will have a gathering space to meet. Nick Russo, Mayor, mentioned how you want to make sure that organizations are not charging for the event. Ricky said that is how this policy will help because there is an application so the library can keep track.

Trish English motioned to adopt the resolution, Erin Schiavo seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Public Comment: none

Nick Russo, Mayor asked if the library would consider doing a community wide event (a big gathering in the gazebo area, which the Borough had done for past events) instead of a big author event. Roy Law mentioned that he was on one of the committees that planned this event and it was very hard to get volunteers. Erin asked if we would use library funds for this event or would it be a partnership with the Borough. Ricky mentioned that Atlantic City Library does similar events where they partner with the City. Our schedule for the summer is already pretty full (concerts, children's programs, culinary events, gaming activities), but we could look into it for an event next year.

Damen Tomassi brought up that he still thinks the author event is too much. Board Members had a discussion about the pros and cons of bringing a big-name author to the library. Roy Law mentioned that we are still learning what works and doesn't work, and we try things, and if it works, we keep doing it, if not we do something else. Ricky mentioned that this program was part of the adopted budget, he received feedback from patrons about authors programs, and we continue to keep costs lower to what they were when the county ran the library system.

Adjournment:

Liz Ricci motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm, Erin Schiavo seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.