

**Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes for June 14, 2021 Meeting**

**Open Meeting Held: Zoom Meeting**

**1. Roll Call**

Trustees Present	Ms. Wendy Armacost Ms. Kat Fanning Ms. Brenda Fargo Ms. Monica Rodriguez Ms. Krista Vellis Mr. Palmer Yale
Absent	Ms. Kristie Damell Mr. Anthony Nicodemo Mr. Jimmy Rizzo
Staff Present	Ms. Gretchen Corsillo
Others Present	Mr. James McCarthy
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Ms. Armacost

**2. Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act**

Ms. Vellis read the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**3. Review of Mask Policy**

Ms. Corsillo reported:

- Currently the library is still requiring masks for patrons and staff. This has been ok so far, although each week getting more complaints. People are getting more comfortable with not having them required.
- She proposed to make masks strongly suggested but not mandatory. Other libraries – Wood Ridge and Lyndhurst for example, aren't requiring masks at all. Other libraries are thinking along same lines.
- They would still be required in children's programs, since kids can't be vaccinated yet.
- Mr. McCarthy mentioned that the Board has authority to make policy either way.
- Discussion ensued regarding the policy and how it effects other patrons who may be immunocompromised or can't be vaccinated.
- Last sentence in the proposed policy is confusing. Flip the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence and reserve the right to require them at other in-person programs based on attendance.
- Staff should be able to state that the decision was made by the Board.
- Mr. McCarthy stated that If there is noncompliance, don't engage. Just take their name down and someone will be in touch with that patron.
- Add verbiage about requiring masks at particular events. "We reserve the right to require masks..."

- Borough Hall has lifted the mask mandate for employees regardless of distance, if vaccinated. Members entering from the public are suggested to wear masks.

**Effective June 15, 2021, in accordance with current guidelines from the CDC and State of New Jersey, Rutherford Public Library (RPL) will no longer require patrons and employees to wear face masks while visiting the library, although they are strongly suggested. Masks will be required at all in-person children's events for everyone in attendance over the age of 2, and RPL reserves the right to require face masks at in-person events based on attendance. Unvaccinated individuals should continue wearing masks and social distancing from others.**

**Motion:** To change the mask mandate at the Library to the discussed verbiage above.

Moved: Yale      Seconded: Vellis

For: Armacost, Fanning, Fargo, Yale

Against: Rodriguez

Abstain: Vellis

#### **4. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Vellis      Seconded: Fargo

For: Armacost, Fanning, Fargo, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale

Against:

Abstain:

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cori Verdino