

**Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for February 10, 2020 Meeting**

Open Meeting

1. Roll Call

Trustees Present	Ms. Wendy Armacost Ms. Brenda Fargo (arrived 7:10 p.m.) Ms. Julie Kajouras Ms. Monica Rodriguez Ms. Pat Wester Mr. Palmer Yale
Absent	Mr. Frank Nunziato, Mayor Mr. Jimmy Rizzo Ms. Krista Vellis
Staff Present	Mr. Judah Hamer, Director
Others Present	
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Ms. Kajouras.

2. Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act

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

3. President's Report

A. Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as written.
Moved: Rodriguez **Seconded:** Armacost
For: Armacost, Kajouras, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Approval of the minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 13, 2019 open meeting.
Moved: Wester **Seconded:** Rodriguez
For: Armacost, Kajouras, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

4. Hearing of the citizens

Ms. Kajouras opened the hearing of the citizens. As no citizens were present to speak, the hearing was closed.

5. Correspondence - None.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Hamer reported that Wendy Armacost has been reappointed to the Board of Trustees and that Anthony Nicodemo will continue as the Mayor's Alternate. Councilman Ray Guzman has been appointed Liaison.

Mr. Hamer is developing a list of capital improvements because of the changes in the Library Construction Bond Act Grant. This list will break into components the phase of renovations originally conceptualized in connection with the grant. Mr. Hamer added that this spring Eagle Scout Candidate Matthew Bronico will be making improvements to the garden, while Steve Addeo is continuing to focus on improvements to the front of the building.

Mr. Hamer said that a community service worker is advancing the painting of the stairwell. Mr. Hamer is working with the Bergen County Probation Office on an assignment of a community service worker whose skill set may support the digitization of some old administrative files. If the match works, this is an opportunity to get some assistance with a long-term project for managing the Library's organizational history.

Mr. Hamer is progressing with the annual report to the State Library. It is due March 15, 2020.

Mr. Hamer reported on the roll-out of the new loan periods and automatic renewal. Bridget Merli served as the lead for the database preparation needed to effect this change.

Mr. Hamer shared that the Friends of the Library Literary Character Contest had modest participation this year so the group will consider resting it in 2021. BCB donated the prizes for the event. Mr. Hamer added that the Friends of the Library ran a Chipotle fundraiser. The group fast-tracked planning and implementation and raised \$270.

7. Finance

Motion: To approve payment of bills enclosed in packet with additions.

Moved: Rodriguez Seconded: Wester

For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale

Against:

Abstain:

8. Other reports:

Foundation – Pat Wester reported that their next meeting is schedule for March 24, 2020 and that it will focus on the Gala. The Foundation has had dinner with Keri Bennett Romano, daughter of the honoree, the late Barbara Bennett.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

- Re-election of Vice President

Motion: To approve the nomination and election of Wendy Armacost as Vice President.

Moved: Yale Seconded: Fargo

For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale

Against:

- Early closing for Teddy Bear Sleepover program

Motion: To authorize closing the Library at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2020.

Moved: Armacost Seconded: Wester

For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale

Against:

Abstain:

- Bulldog Academy

Mr. Hamer reported that Rutherford Board of Education has reached out about the renewal of the agreement by which the Library gives space to the school district to house Bulldog Academy. No substantive changes are proposed for the new contract, but the Board of Education has asked the Library to consider a 5-year rather than a 3-year term. Discussion ensued, and there was consensus for a 3-year term, since a 5-year term would bind a future Board, Mayor and Council.

Mr. Hamer also noted that he has preliminarily touched base with Supt. Jack Hurley about a minor modification to the Agreement, which would provide for staff accessing the non-public portion of the Library basement via the Chestnut St. door and ramped hallway.

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Armacost Seconded: Wester

For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale

Against:

Abstain:

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cori Verdino