

**Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for May 15, 2017 Meeting**

Open Meeting

1. Roll Call

Trustees Present	Ms. Wendy Armacost Ms. Brenda Fargo Ms. Julie Kajouras Mr. Anthony Nicodemo Mr. James Rizzo Ms. Monica Rodriguez Ms. Pat Wester Mr. Palmer Yale
Absent	Ms. Krista Vellis
Staff Present	Mr. Judah Hamer, Director
Others present	Mr. Jim McCarthy
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 updated agenda
Moved: Rizzo **Seconded:** Armacost
For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Nicodemo, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 17, 2017 open meeting
Moved: Armacost **Seconded:** Wester
For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Rizzo, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain: Nicodemo, Rodriguez

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 17, 2017 closed meeting
Moved: Wester **Seconded:** Rizzo
For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Rizzo, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain: Nicodemo, Rodriguez

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

Mr. Hamer shared the thank you letter Michael and Tracey Paskas sent regarding the Gala. He also reviewed a letter sent by resident (and neighbor to the Library) Gina Siembab to Mayor DeSalvo regarding the locking of the Library gates to the rear garden. Mr. Hamer reviewed past practice and related that in the future the gates would be left open in order to provide safe egress in the case of an emergency, particularly in light of the occupation of lower level space by Rutherford Board of Education for its Bulldog Academy.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Hamer reported that PIA, the insurance company, will be providing a staff training session on employee rights and responsibilities. Staff and he have scheduled the meeting over dinner on a Thursday evening after the Library closes, to minimize the impact of this training on public service hours.

Mr. Hamer reported on the annual switch from heating to cooling with the HVAC system, and that there was some difficulty with getting the AC started this year. The system is due for an internal cleaning of the water supply, which Mr. Hamer notes has not been done in at least 6 years.

Mr. Hamer reported on the Friends of the Library book sale performance, and related that the Friends will also have a presence at the Labor Day street fair, primarily selling books.

Mr. Hamer commented on the changes to the eBook platforms by BCCLS. He related basic background on the impact of eBook sales and their constraints as they impact libraries' provision of digital content. BCCLS originally committed to multiple eBook platforms because this ensured access to the major publishing conglomerates. The market has shift and it can now move to a single platform, which provides a better experience for the end users who access this content through the Library.

Mr. Hamer reported on the removal of Rochelle Park Library from BCCLS due to their continued non-compliance with By-Laws. Rochelle Park was found to be operating as a town department, not an independent municipal or association library, and the municipality's refusal to change this situation made the Rochelle Park Library ineligible for membership.

7. Committee Reports

A. Finance

Motion: To approve payment of bills enclosed in packet with additions.
Moved: Fargo **Seconded:** Wester
For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Nicodemo, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

8. Other reports:

Mayor (or Alternate) – No report.

Foundation – Ms. Wester reported on the success of the Gala, which will see a profit of about \$20,000. Ms. Kajouras agreed, noting the support expressed for the Library's work with the Board of Education on use of the lower level as a location for its Bulldog Academy. Ms. Armacost complimented Mr. Hamer's remarks, with others noting that there is an appreciation for the information he imparted about library services.

Legal – Report reserved for closed session as it deals with a personnel matter.

9. Closed Session

WHEREAS, the "Open Public Meetings Act" requires that a public body adopt a resolution at an open meeting before going into closed session to discuss a matter which excludes the public as permitted under Section 7b;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees will hold a closed meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 7:37 PM in the Library to discuss a personnel matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the outcome of this discussion will be disclosed to the public when there is no further need for confidentiality.

10. Old Business

Ms. Wester requested the Board revisit the discussion of moving the Library operating account to BCB Rutherford since Mr. Rizzo, Treasurer, was absent from the meeting when this matter was initially discussed.

Mr. Hamer reviewed the account structure. The Library maintains accounts at two institutions: operational account at Wells Fargo and the capital account at BCB Rutherford. Mr. Hamer noted the capital fund is largely spent down due to the renovations.

Mr. Rizzo summarized the history of the Library capital account, explaining that these funds were moved from Merrill Lynch to BCB Rutherford, where they performed at a better rate of return. Mr. Rizzo noted that because of the legal issues Wells Fargo is facing, the accounts should be moved from this institution. He stressed that the Board, in deciding where the funds should reside, should act in the best interest of the Library.

Ms. Rodriguez expressed that she does not think the Library should have all of its funds reside at a single financial institution. Ms. Armacost stated that she is concerned about perceptions regarding the way the Library handles funds with respect to selecting financial institutions.

Motion: To approve moving the Library's operating account to BCB Bank, Rutherford.
Moved: Wester **Seconded:** Yale

Mr. Nicodemo stated that a community bank gets involved in the community and there would be no reason to do that if no one put their money in the bank. He commented that BCB Bank, Rutherford is FDIC insured and the Library's total financial assets in these accounts are well under insurance cap.

Mr. McCarthy mentioned that there are rules for banking for libraries, and that these do not pose a legal impediment to the Library placing its funds in the trust of a single institution. He added that the negative press and legal concerns faced by Wells Fargo makes it a good idea to put the Library's money into another bank.

Ms. Kajouras called the question.

For: Kajouras, Nicodemo, Wester, Yale
Against: Armacost, Rodriguez
Abstain: Fargo, Rizzo

11. New Business

Motion: Authorize Julie Kajouras to sign the Conditional Reinstatement Agreement of Judith Morrone, which provides for a 5-day unpaid suspension.

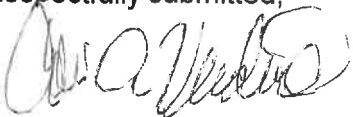
Moved: Rizzo **Seconded:** Armacost
For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Nicodemo, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

12. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.
Moved: Armacost **Seconded:** Fargo
For: Armacost, Fargo, Kajouras, Nicodemo, Rizzo, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cori Verdino