

**Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for July 15, 2019 Meeting**

Open Meeting

1. Roll Call

Trustees Present

Ms. Wendy Armacost
Ms. Julie Kajouras
Ms. Monica Rodriguez
Ms. Pat Wester
Mr. Palmer Yale

Absent

Ms. Brenda Fargo
Mr. Anthony Nicodemo
Mr. James Rizzo
Ms. Krista Vellis

Staff Present

Mr. Judah Hamer, Director

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 with amendments.
Moved: Armacost **Seconded:** Wester
For: Armacost, Kajouras, Rodriguez, Wester, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 17, 2019 open meeting.

Moved: Yale **Seconded:** Armacost

For: Armacost, Kajoura, Wester, Yale

Against:

Abstain: 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

None

6. Director's Report

Mr. Hamer reported on HVAC issues, noting the breakdown of the compressor, which had been repaired multiple times. Broader discussion of the HVAC ensued, with Mr. Hamer relating some challenges that are inherent to heating and cooling in the Library. In addition to the concern for keeping the air conditioning functional, it was remarked that public libraries typically serve as cooling centers and because of this there is an additional incentive to undertake system repairs promptly.

Mr. Hamer reported that a community service worker has made major progress on painting the basement hallway and connecting stairwell. That service worker has completed his required hours, and Nabil Farag will finish this phase of painting as time permits.

Mr. Hamer reported that the Department of Public works cleaned up the rear garden, pulling weeds in higher profile areas and putting down mulch. This work was prompted by a complaint that was filed by the Department of Health, because there were weeds in the flower beds that were higher than twelve inches.

Mr. Hamer described the challenges faced by the new BCCLS delivery service in its first month of implementation, notably staff recruitment and delivery route optimization. In spite of these, he noted that the patron experience for delivery time is already improving. He added the delivery system is expected to cost each Library \$8,000-\$9,000 annually.

A Trustee mentioned the decision by Montclair Public Library's Board of Trustees to eliminate overdue fines. Mr. Hamer said he would track this development, and he added that Johnson Library in Hackensack was piloting a fine free summer. Concern was expressed that this shift would detrimentally impact a Library's revenue stream.

Mr. Hamer reported on the continued success of summer reading and lauded the efforts of Jane Tarantino. He transitioned discussion to adult programming, commenting that staff members and he are developing the fall/winter profile of programs, classes and events. In connection with this, Mr. Hamer highlighted the pop-up passport office that the Library is bringing to Rutherford August 20-22, 2019.

Mr. Hamer reviewed the continuing work on operating system upgrade throughout the building. He and Rhoda Portugal are the lead staff members on planning and implementation of these improvements, and they work closely with the independent contractor Coordinate Technologies, Inc. on this.

Mr. Hamer commented on a recent series of articles hosted by *TAPinto*, which contained a considerable amount of misinformation about the BCCLS' resource sharing; the intent of the county grant of \$150,000 to BCCLS; and, the impact of eliminating reciprocal reimbursement among BCCLS member libraries.

7. Finance

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

Moved: Wester Seconded: Armacost

For: Armacost, Kajouras, Rodriguez Wester, Yale

Against:

Abstain:

8. Other reports:

Mayor (or Alternate) – No report.

Foundation – No report

Legal – No report.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Adjournment

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

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cori Verdino