Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for May 21, 2024 Meeting 7:00PM

Open Meeting Held: Library Auditorium
Optional Zoom Meeting ID 842 9475 4177 & Password 974544

1. Roll Call

Trustees Present	Ms. Wendy Armacost Ms. Kim Bogosian Ms. Kristie Damell - Zoom Ms. Monica Rodriguez - Zoom Ms. Krista Vellis Mr. Palmer Yale
Absent	Ms. Stephanie Kivich Mr. Jimmy Rizzo Mr. Charles Ryan
Staff Present	Ms. Gretchen Corsillo
Others Present	Ms. Susan Quatrone Mr. David LaPorta
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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. President's Report

A. Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting
Moved: Bogosian Seconded: Yale
For: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Approval of the minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024, open meeting
Moved: Vellis Seconded: Yale
For: Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell

4. Hearing of the citizens

Ms. Armacost opened the meeting to the hearing of the citizens. Seeing none, she closed the meeting.

5. Correspondence – None

6. Director's Report

Ms. Corsillo reported:

- Finance – The audit is going on now. Our budget request was approved by the Mayor & Council.
- Ms. Corsillo and Ms. Johnson have attended the Borough's Mental Health First Aid training this month.
- Ms. Corsillo attended NJLA's Small Libraries Unconference on April 26 and saw a presentation the Best Small Library in America, located in Arizona. We are already doing many of the things that they do.
- Summer Reading started May 1. It will continue through September. 40+ adults already registered. Lots of first-time registrants.
- Outreach – We will have a table at Pridefest with the Friends.
    - LibPost – signed contract with them. They are getting their legal stuff ready to go. We design our own postcards, so it will cost less than $1000 for the year.
- Facilities – The information area near the front door has been revamped. There were too many types of communication on the tables. The community information has been separated from the Library information. It's now neater, and less cluttered.
    - Ordered Children's shelving which was necessary for nonfiction. We are going to have fewer computers. There were originally eight but we are going down to two since many of the kids bring their own laptops and Chromebooks. Due to machines dying, we are currently down to three.

7. Committee Reports

A. Finance

1. Payment of bills

Motion: To approve payment of bills enclosed in packet, with additions
Moved: Vellis Seconded: Yale
For: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Buildings/Grounds – waiting to hear back from the PSE&G grant. Ms. Quatrone has informed the Borough that the Library will probably need a roof. There is no sign on Park Ave indicating the Rutherford Public Library. That's something that we should look into. Ms. Quatrone will look into this as well.

C. Foundation – They just had a meeting and voted to approve the funding of the Teen Space. Potential fall event for donors.

D. By-Laws – No report.

E. Policy – Ms. Corsillo is working on social media policy. With the advent of AI we should also look at revising our policies overall.

F. Strategic Planning – No report.

G. 130th Anniversary – the Park Ave window is decorated recognizing the anniversary. Fall timeline for doing something more public, possibly with the Foundation's event. There was apparently a Teen Space back in the 50s. Ms. Corsillo is looking into it to see if she can find any additional information on it.

H. Nominating – No report.

I. Personnel – No report.

J. Mayor/Alternate – Welcome packet idea from the Chamber of Commerce. The Library will have a flyer of some sort in it.

K. Superintendent/Alternate – No report.

L. Legal – No report

8. Old Business

- Update on Teen Space – Foundation has approved the funding for the construction of the space.

Motion: To approve hiring Creative Library Concepts to move forward with the Teen Space outlined in their proposal.
Moved: Vellis Seconded: Rodriguez
For: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

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 Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:31PM in the Library Auditorium and via Zoom to discuss appointment of legal counsel.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the outcome of this discussion will be disclosed to the public when there is no further need for confidentiality.

Motion: To move into closed session.
Moved: Rodriguez Seconded: Yale
For: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

10. New Business

- Appointment of new legal counsel

Motion: To approve the appointment of Ian Doris as the library's legal counsel.
Moved: Yale Seconded: Bogosian
For: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:

Abstain:

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT LEGAL COUNSEL
WHEREAS, the Library Board has determined that it is in the best interest to retain the professional set forth in this Resolution;

WHEREAS, the Library Board is familiar with the credentials of Ian Doris and has previously found that they have the requisite professional expertise and experience to assist the Library; and

WHEREAS, the Library Board seeks to enter an agreement to retain Ian Doris for performance of professional services not to exceed the cost of $20,000 for the year 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Ian Doris is hereby authorized to serve as Legal Counsel for the Library.

- Revision of Museum Pass Policy
    - Now, the patrons are required to have them back by 11am. We get many complaints about this because it's confusing. Clarify the policy to 3 days, 2 nights and remove the 11am constraint.

Motion: To revise the library's Museum Pass Policy to remove time constraints on the pickup and return of passes.
Moved: Bogosian Seconded: Yale
For: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

- Discussion of Library as Book Sanctuary – This was spoken about at the Unconference. Ms. Corsillo spoke with the Hoboken Library Director as well. This would be a Resolution from the Board that solidifies our policy on banned books, challenging books etc, but makes it more of a positive narrative. Our policies already point to the ALA Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement. This doesn't change anything with our policy, just solidifies our Library's core values. We are here to serve the public and people should have access to everything. BCCLS libraries are starting to get on board with this as well. Ties in with the Best of Bergen award in the spirit of being on the cutting edge. Ms. Corsillo will send out a draft resolution so that the Trustees can read it and next month we can discuss how it will be put out publicly.

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.
Moved: Yale Seconded: Vellis
For: Armacost, Bogosian, Damell, Rodriguez, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cori Verdino

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM