

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

This meeting was videotaped.

President Nick Ciampi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

Kevin McNeil	<i>present</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>present</i>	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	<i>absent</i>
Iris Kislin	<i>present</i>	Mayor Kramer	<i>present</i>	Edward Ward	<i>present</i>
Tom Lennon	<i>absent</i>	Agnes Kulu-Banya	<i>excused</i>		
January Adams	<i>present</i>				

It was noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the **Open Public Meetings Act**.

Nick turned the meeting over to Parliamentarian January Adams who asked if there were any nominations for the position of President. Iris nominated Nick and Ed seconded. January asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, she asked for a vote. All were in favor. At this point, the meeting was turned over to President Nick Ciampa.

Nick asked for nominations for the position of Vice President/Treasurer. Nick nominated Tom Lennon and all were in favor.

Nick then asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Nick nominated Iris Kislin and all were in favor.

Congratulations were offered to the new officers.

Iris motioned to open the meeting to public comment. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comments.

Iris motioned to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2019 meeting. Ed seconded and all were in favor.

**Director's Report:**

January presented the financial reports of the **Director's report** for the month of January. The financial reports were filed for audit.

January highlighted various aspects of the narrative section of her monthly report. She noted that:

- One thousand five hundred and fifty-five people attended 113 programs held at the library and the branch during the last month. Of particular note were the *Astrophotography for the Rest of Us* and the Sock Monkeys Valentine Mysteries.
- The library's winter reading programs are well underway. The Family (a.k.a. children's) program has 63 participants who have read for 20,000 minutes. The Adult Winter Reading program has 35 members who have read 101 books.
- The program offerings at the library have steadily increased thanks to the efforts of the Outreach Librarian and the Young Adult Librarian.

Ed expressed kudos to the Young Adult Librarian's efforts to establish a connection with the high school.

Iris was pleased that the library had held a successful Amnesty Day on January 14.

**President's Report:**

Nick reported the sad news that John Clyde, a library trustee, had passed away on January 24 at the age of 63. He went on to state that "John had spent a lifetime in public service, including serving as the Mayor of Franklin Township, and nearly twenty years as a councilman. For the past two years, John had graced the library board, providing wisdom and guidance. John met health and other of life's challenges with dignity and perseverance. His death is a loss to all."

On another note, Nick updated board members on the meeting he had attended with Mayor Kramer, Agnes Kulu-Banya, January Adams, Superintendent of Schools John Ravally, and Board of Education members Laurie Merris, Christine Danielsen, and Nancy LaCorte on February 6, 2019.

During that meeting, the group discussed the use of board of Education owned property for a library branch. Property near Claremont School was ruled out, but a parcel near Franklin Park School, (Block 37.02, Lot 12) on Baylor Street was considered a possibility. The Board of Education members present did not object to looking into the possibility of locating a 5,000 square foot library, with parking, near the west side of the school parking lot. Mr. Ravally suggested that the board investigate whether the property can support the use, and then, if the library board wanted to proceed, he would present the proposal to the full Board of Education for its consideration.

January noted that following the above meeting, an onsite visit had been conducted by a Van Cleef field specialist who had found that the site could potentially be free of wetland areas. The board determined that a request process for a Letter of Interpretation from NJDEP be initiated. January was asked to update Mr. Ravally on these developments.

**Correspondence and communications:**

*PW: "Let's Make 2019 the Year of the Book," January 21, 2019*

*Library Journal: "More Service than Circ," February 2019*

*Library Journal: "Takeaways & Trends," February 2019*

A discussion of the role and value of public libraries followed.

**Old Business:**

Iris motioned to authorize January to move one million dollars to a Wells Fargo 11 month CD at an interest rate of 2.6% without further approval from the board. Ed seconded.

Roll Call vote:

Nick Ciampa	yes	Iris Kislin	yes	Kevin McNeil	yes
Ed Ward	yes	Mayor Kramer	yes		

**New Business:**

None

The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the open Public Meetings Act, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1-9), Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees is of the opinion that such circumstances do exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters:
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - a) Property negotiations
3. The Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees may take official action on those items discussed in Executive Session upon completion of the Executive Session.
4. The minutes of the discussions shall be made available to the public as soon as the matters under discussion are no longer of a confidential or sensitive nature.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The aforesaid resolution was moved by Iris and seconded by Ed. All were in favor and the board adjourned into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 6:13 p.m.

The meeting was re-opened for public comment. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comment.

The **next meeting** will be March 27, 2019.

Iris motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kevin seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

January Adams  
Director of Library Services