

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Recorded virtual meeting

Secretary Iris Kislin called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

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

Roll Call:

Kevin McNeil	<i>present</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>present via audio</i>	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	<i>present</i>
Iris Kislin	<i>present</i>	Mayor Kramer	<i>present</i>	Edward Ward	<i>present</i>
Tianna Gresham	<i>present</i>	Agnes Kulu-Banya	<i>present</i>		

January Adams *present*

Mayor Kramer gave a brief introduction of Tianna Gresham who will be his new alternate to the board. Board members welcomed Tianna to the board.

Iris stated that the virtual meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

There being no members of the public signed on, the meeting was closed to the public.

Kevin motioned to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting. Agnes seconded. NBC abstained but the rest were in favor.

Director's Report:

January presented the financial reports of the **Director's report** for the month of July. The financial reports were filed for audit and January will send Tianna a description of what each line item covers on the expense reports.

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

- The library staff had implemented a careful, measured reopening and a cautious, incremental rollout of services. Specifically, the library started curbside pickup on June 15. That was expanded to include Grab and Go on July 13. That was followed on July 27 by the availability of copier services and mobile printing. Finally, on August 10 the library opened up one patron computer that is available by appointment.
- She briefly described what patrons entering the building encountered and the various measures that the library had taken to ensure staff and patron safety while providing taxpayers with library services.
- She wished to thank the board for supporting the actions that the library had undertaken to reopen safely.
- Physical usage of the library had been low, but was slowly increasing.
- The library had continued to increase its digital offerings and online services and programs.
- The Young Adult Librarian had held many virtual teen events and had been actively involved with the Teen Advisory group.
- On August 18, she had attended a virtual meeting of the Franklin Township Youth Center Service providers meeting where she was able to introduce herself and speak about the services the library would be offering at the center.

President's Report:

Nick stated that the library was proceeding with the subdivision of the land for the southern branch. He added that the subdivision was the first step in purchasing the property from the Board of Education. Also, the subdivision plans now included an easement for Baylor Street. Jon Toth (BOE Assistant Superintendent) has seen the plan and approved it. The next step is for the plan to go to Vince Dominach. Nick then summarized the rationale and history of

the board's efforts to build its own southern branch building rather than continuing to rent space in the Franklin Towne Center strip mall.

Correspondence and communications:

“All By Ourselves,” *Publishers Weekly*, June 8, 2020

“The Grand Reopening,” *Publishers Weekly*, June 8, 2020

Iris stated that she had written to Grounds for Sculpture to ask that the museum reconsider its discontinuation of selling passes to libraries. She did not receive a response. Iris also wrote a letter to former board member Tom Lennon thanking him for his service.

Old Business:

The Mayor stated that the township's tax collection revenue appeared to be on target.

New Business:

January stated that the Franklin Women's Club had informed her that its members would like to work with the Somerset County Master Gardeners to create a pollinator garden near the library and gazebo as a community service project. On their behalf, January presented this idea and library board members were interested in pursuing it. January asked Mayor Kramer who should be consulted before proceeding any further. He suggested contacting Bob Vornlocker.

The next meeting will be September 23, 2020.

At this point, as requested, Tianna spoke about her mentoring program, Tinks Golden Girls. She stated that about 15 to 20 girls are active and that the group focuses on self-esteem and developing various life skills in addition to doing work for the community, such as backpack drives.

Nick motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kevin seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

January Adams
Director of Library Services