

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
Recorded virtual meeting

President Nick Ciampa called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nick stated that the virtual meeting was being held in compliance with the **Open Public Meetings Act**.

Roll Call:

Kevin McNeil	<i>excused</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>present</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	<i>present</i>				

The meeting was opened for the first of two public comment opportunities. Nick announced that the first public portion could be used for comments about any topic. The second would be restricted to comments about topics that had been discussed during the meeting. Individuals could speak at both sessions, but would be limited to three minutes.

There being no members of the public that wished to speak at this time, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Ed motioned to approve the minutes of the June 23 meeting. NBC seconded and all 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.

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

- During July, the library held 21 adult programs with 437 attendees. The Youth Services Department posted four new weekend fun programs on the Kids' Page in addition to hosting 21 in-person, outside, programs and 2 Story Times to Go.
- Patrons continued to thank the library for being open during the pandemic
- Foot traffic continued to pick up during the month with more people using the space for studying and other quiet activities.
- All three summer reading programs would end by August 23. January will provide statistics at the next meeting.
- *School Library Journal* had invited the Young Adult Librarian to join the committee that selects the Best Young Adult Nonfiction books of 2021.

President's Report:

The Franklin Township Planning Board met virtually, on August 18, and reviewed the Library's site plan. The Planning Board President and its attorney described the limited role of the Planning Board in reviewing such a plan.

During the meeting, Jeff Reynolds of *The Reynolds Group*, the Library's engineering firm, presented plans and discussed site preparation, buffering, drainage, parking, and landscaping. Harold G. Maltz PE, presented a traffic study, and discussed his methodology.

Three members of the public spoke and questioned the need for the building, the proposed buffering plantings, and the traffic report.

Planning Board Chair Michael Orsini praised the landscaping plan, and stated that keeping the existing older trees, as suggested by a member of the public, would be a great mistake.

Suggestions by the Planning Board included the following: installation of infrastructure for future installation of a charging station for plug-in electric vehicles; an additional bicycle rack; and enhancing the buffering row of Norway Spruces along the eastern border by staggering the trees.

Members also expressed a desire for sidewalks on Eden Street, Clover Place, and a portion of Claremont Road, but stated that this should be part of a township wide sidewalk plan, possibly financed by the township's *Sidewalk Fund*, and not by the Library.

January mentioned that the Mayor had forwarded an email from a representative of RideWise who was interested in following up about sidewalks to her but thought that this was more in the township's purview. The Mayor stated that he thought that RideWise's insights might be helpful. He added that the township's first priority was to provide sidewalks near schools and that the town built sidewalks, not the library. He ended by stating that he thought it would be a nice gesture for the library to commit a set amount of money for sidewalks.

Correspondence and communications:

- "Franklin Residents Have Not Given Up Trying to Stop Construction of New Library," *New Brunswick Today*, June 23, 2021
- "Maryland Law Requires Ebook Sales to Libraries," *Library Journal*, July 2021
- "Half-Year Print Sales Soar," *Publishers Weekly*, July 12, 2021

Old Business:

Nick stated that the eastern side of the property could be enhanced as per the Planning Board's recommendation. He recommended that since the technology for electric vehicles was changing we include minimum infrastructure for charging stations. The Mayor was not in favor of pervious materials for the parking lot.

New Business:

Nick motioned that the library proceed with putting the project out to bid in early September. Iris seconded.

Roll call vote:

Nicholas Ciampa	yes	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	yes	Tianna Gresham	yes
Iris Kislin	yes	Edward Ward	yes	Agnes Kulu-Banya	yes

The Mayor expressed concern that the link for the library virtual meetings on the library's event calendar was too difficult for the public to figure out. He suggested that links for library events be right on the calendar and not as pop ups. January will look into accomplishing this. If the current event calendar, which is going to be replaced in October, will not lend itself to this change, library staff will provide a link in a prominent location on its home page.

The meeting was opened for the second of two public comment opportunities. Jason Bird, a library staff member, stated that the library would be implementing a new digital event calendar on its web page in October that would make it easier for patrons to access virtual library board meetings.

Since there were no other members of the public that wished to speak, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

The next meeting will be on September 22, 2021.

Iris motioned to adjourn and NBC seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:17.

January Adams
Director of Library Services