

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Recorded virtual meeting

President Nick Ciampa called the meeting to order at 5:45 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>present</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>present</i>	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	<i>present</i>
Iris Kislin	<i>present</i>	Mayor Kramer	<i>present</i>	Amy Arsiwala	<i>absent</i>
Tianna Gresham	<i>present</i>	Agnes Kulu-Banya	<i>present</i>		

January Adams *present*

Nick opened the meeting to public comment. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comments.

Iris motioned to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2023 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:

- An invitation for bids for the construction of a new gallery roof was published in *The Courier News* on August 7, 2023. An onsite, non-mandatory pre-bid meeting for prospective bidders was held on August 15, 2023 at the library. The sealed bids will be opened on August 29, 2023.
- The contractor of the new southern branch has been unable to get a TCO because of corrections that need to be made to the site.
- The library's new online registration system went live on August 1.
- The library had a table at the township's National Night Out event. Hundreds of attendees stopped by the table for giveaways and information.
- The Adult Services Department schedule 35 adult programs that 405 people attended. The Youth Services Department held 52 programs that 1,666 folks enjoyed.
- The bid from Innovative Interfaces was found to be the best qualified and of the lowest cost.
- The two year Reciprocal Borrowing Pilot Program between FTPL and SCLSNJ has concluded and the county library would like to make the program permanent.

President's Report:

None

Correspondence and communications:

- “CAL Sues State over Law that Could Jail Librarians,” *Library Journal*, p.7, July 2023
- “Ukrainian Libraries in Wartime,” *Library Journal*, p. 8, June 2023
- “What Are the Book Banners Afraid of?” by Jane Smiley, *The Nation*, p. 25, June 12-19, 2023

Board members particularly liked the article by Jane Smiley and expressed dismay and amazement that book banning has become so ubiquitous in the country.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

The following resolution was presented:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF RECIPROCAL BORROWING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSY

WHEREAS the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees wishes to increase the services it provides to the township’s residents; and

WHEREAS collaborative projects with SCLSNJ are desirable and of benefit to all; and

WHEREAS customer service expectations, commuting patterns and technologies have all changed in ways that minimize geographical distinctions; and

WHEREAS technologies exist that can identify, address, and remedy any imbalances that might arise in offering reciprocal borrowing services between SCLSNJ and FTPL;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees authorizes the Director of Library Services to continue implementing reciprocal borrowing with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey as described in a Memorandum of Understanding dated August 23, 2023.

The aforesaid resolution was moved by NBC and seconded by Kevin

Roll call vote:

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

The following resolution was presented:

RESOLUTION AWARDDING THE BID FOR A NEW ILS TO INNOVATIVE INTERFACES

WHEREAS an invitation for bids for a new ILS was published in The Courier News on June 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS Two sealed bids were opened on July 11, at 11:00 a. m. at the library; and

WHEREAS the bids were reviewed and scored by a library staff committee that included the Director, the Head of Adult Services, and the Technology Librarian; and

WHEREAS the bid found to be the best qualified and of the lowest cost was from Innovative Interfaces for an installation cost of \$34,625 and first year of service cost of \$27,865;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED that the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees is awarding the contract for a new ILS to Innovative Interfaces.

The aforesaid resolution was moved by Kevin and seconded by Agnes.

Roll call vote:

Kevin McNeil	<i>yes</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>yes</i>	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	<i>yes</i>
Iris Kislin	<i>yes</i>	Tianna Gresham	<i>yes</i>	Agnes Kulu-Banya	<i>yes</i>

Nick opened the meeting for public comment. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comments.

The next meeting will be September 27, 2023 via Zoom.

On behalf of the residents of a senior building Kevin wanted to thank the Mayor for handling a recent problem.

Agnes motioned to adjourn and Kevin seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

January Adams
Director of Library Services