

RICHARD A. MOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES
October 21, 2024

OPEN

President Geraldine Mola opened the public meeting at 6:10 p.m. in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meeting Act.

ROLL CALL

Present: Geraldine Mola, Barbara Marquez, Stacy Mola, and Mayor Robert Colletti,

Absent: Kathleen Policano, Daniela Buscio, and Anthony Iachetti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Barbara Marquez moved to accept the minutes. Second: Mayor Colletti. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Noting a high total for the second month in a row, Treasurer Stacy Mola moved to authorize payment of Bills in the amount of \$71, 422.40. She said she will ask the bookkeeper to transfer, if possible, the \$6,300 Strategic Operating Solutions bill from the Operating Account to the Payroll Account since payment was for W. Keith McCoy's September/October work as Interim Director.

Second: Barbara Marquez. Motion approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **Personnel**
 - W. Keith McCoy resigned on October 3, effective that day.
 - Former Library Assistant Cindy McCarroll is seeking unemployment benefits though she quit the job.
 - Madeline Taylor has agreed to stay on as bookkeeper.
 - A staff member is currently suspended.
- **Audit** is complete and copies should be available soon

STAFF REPORTS

Motion to accept staff reports was moved by Mayor Colletti, seconded by Barbara Marquez and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Children's Room

Geraldine Mola reported:

- Room was closed for renovation on October 16.

- October 16 and 17, College Hunks Movers boxed books, moved bookcases, shifted boxes to specific areas in library
- New plan has been developed for book placement, and staff is shelving.
- October 30, MindtheGap company is scheduled to install fabricated art.

Motion to authorize up to \$5,200.00 from the Capital Account to cover moving costs in Children's Room. Moved by Mayor Colletti, seconded by Stacy Mola. Approved Unanimously.

Director Search. The want ad and proposed placement for the Director job search proposed by Strategic Operating Solutions was reviewed. Following discussion, Mayor Colletti moved, Barbara Marquez seconded, that the Library's contract and collaboration with Strategic Operations Solutions be terminated. All voted in favor.

Electrical Work. President Mola reported that she wrote to electrician John Laiosa, whose quote was approved last spring, to ask why we haven't heard from him and when he will begin work. He finally replied that medical problems prevent him from working.

She contacted electrician Frank Fasolo, who inspected various electrical problems on October 15 and forwarded a proposal to correct the high floor outlets by removing the existing floor outlet cover plates and carpet flanges, supply materials, and reinstall new covers to shorten outlet to the same height as the floor.

Motion by Mayor Colletti, second by Stacy Mola, to authorize \$10,075.00 (\$325 each outlet) from the Capital Fund for electrical work to reduce height of 31 existing floor outlets to floor level. Motion unanimously approved.

Heating/Cooling Problem. As Mayor requested, Borough Administrator Mike Foligno sent a heat/air conditioning professional to assess Library heating/cooling problems and recommend improvements. Interim Director McCoy did not allow him to inspect the premises.

Mayor Colletti will request that the Administrator send someone again. Kevin Neary is to explain Library problems.

New Flag. Stacy Mola reported that she arranged to have Gates provide a new flagpole and flag, which are installed. She suggested that Gates schedule an annual or biannual visit to change the Library flag, which Trustees approved by general consent.

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Removal. Since the Library has no custodian, a person is needed to shovel snow and throw salt on the front walkway. Mayor Colletti will ask the Administrator if a borough custodian can be assigned to this.

Request for Facility Use. An application for use of Library space on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 for tutoring was received by Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County, which provides free tutoring services and ESL instruction by trained volunteers to adults in need of basic literary education.

Barbara Marquez moved, Mayor Colletti seconded, that Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County may use, free of charge, the first-floor activity room as available or alternate space on Thursday mornings for 1-2 hours. Motion approved unanimously.

Better World Books, which provides large book containers for donated books, inquired if the Library is interested in a book container. All agreed that the Library is not interested in providing containers for the general public to donate books.

Window Cleaning. Stacy Mola received a quote provided by Guy's Maintenance for a window cleaner to clean all glass windows for a cost of \$1,700. It was agreed that the price was reasonable, and should be pursued further.

Window Repair. Mayor Colletti suggested glaziers be consulted about sealing Library windows, which are in urgent need of repair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeanne Freitag, Mayor's Alternate, speaking as a public citizen, commented that Book Club participants are running the club on their own without need of library staff, great attendance by young children, limited participation in programs for older children, and disappointment that another program, one about Halloween, was cancelled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Mola called for a motion at 7:34 pm to go into Executive Session for Personnel matters, with related action to be taken during the public session. Motion: Barbara Marquez. Second: Stacy Mola. Motion passed unanimously.

RECONVENE

Mayor Colletti moved, with a second by Stacy Mola, to reconvene the meeting at 8:41 p.m. All voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

The President closed the meeting at 8:43 pm. Adjournment was approved by general consent.