

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ASBURY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**

September 4, 2019

Attendance

Mr. Werner Baumgartner, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Board members present were Ms. Angela Ahbez-Anderson, Mr. Werner Baumgartner, Ms. Janice Kroposky, Ms. Kerrin Martin, Ms. Diane Shelton, Mrs. Jennifer Souder, Ms. Jan Sparrow, and Kathleen Melgar, Assistant Library Director. Ms. Shelton arrived at the meeting at 9:30 A.M and Ms. Kroposky left the meeting at 10:10 A.M.

Notice

Mr. Baumgartner announced that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq, notice of the meeting was given in a 48-Hour Notice issued August 30, 2019.

Oath of Office

Mr. Baumgartner reported that Hector Palomo had recently resigned from the board and Mayor Moor appointed Jan Sparrow, 414 Second Avenue, to replace him and serve out the unexpired portion of his term which ends December 31, 2019. Mr. Palomo was unable to attend meetings because he works in New York City and is in Asbury Park only on weekends and holidays. Former trustee Janet Torsney recruited Mr. Palomo to replace her when she resigned from the board earlier this year but apparently didn't brief him as to the board's meeting schedule.

Assistant Library Director Kathleen Melgar, who is also a N.J. Notary Public, administered the following oath of office to Ms. Sparrow:
I, Jan Sparrow, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all the duties of the office of library trustee of the Asbury Park Public Library to the best of my ability, and that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people, so help me God.

Members of the board then welcomed Ms. Sparrow as a new trustee.

Minutes & Treasurer's Report

Motion by Ms. Ahbez-Anderson, seconded by Ms. Martin, that at the suggestion of Ms. Melgar, the minutes of the meeting of June 26, 2019 and the treasurer's reports for June 2019 and July 2019 be carried to the September 25, 2019 meeting. Carried, all voting yes.

Old Business

Library Construction Bond Act – Westside Branch Library

Werner Baumgartner, Kerrin Martin, Kathleen Melgar and Mr. Stewart met with the Mayor and City Manager at 1:00 PM Friday July 26, 2019 to inform them about the bond issue and the possibility of obtaining funding to develop a library branch on the city's Westside. The offer of Interfaith Neighbors to help with this endeavor was discussed and the possibility of incorporating a library presence in their proposed JAMS facility was mentioned. The city manager suggested several other sites to consider including part of the senior center and the Renaissance Building on Springwood Avenue.

After a discussion of the merits of various sites for a branch facility, there was a **motion** by Mrs. Souder, **seconded** by Ms. Ahbez-Anderson that a letter be sent to the city expressing preference for a facility in the senior center building. Carried, all voting yes, except Ms. Shelton who abstained.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Ms. Melgar reported recent on developments with building maintenance. Upon the retirement of long-term, full-time building maintenance woman Patricia La Sala she and the director decided to hire two part-time employees to take over this work. She described the many tasks Mr. Vicente has been working on and the cleaning routines Ms. Rivera handles.

Strategic Plan Committee

No report, but discussions continue about how to continue work on a plan.

Friends of the Library

Ms. Melgar distributed a written report submitted by the Friends describing their accomplishments and activities for the past year. John Grant presented himself as representing the Friends and commented on the need for better communication with the board about prioritizing projects for the group. Members agreed that Ms. Martin will continue to be the board's liaison of to the Friends.

New Business

Jersey Shore Rescue Mission

Ms. Melgar reported that the library had a particularly difficult summer dealing with clients of the mission many of whom frequent the library for extended periods of time. Library staff had to regularly reprimand and confront hostile and improper behavior and disorderly conduct of mission residents. Police had to be called a number of times. The assistant director attempted to contact the mission director to discuss a solution to the problem. She noted that library staff have observed that because of the cycles of residency at the mission different groups of men come and go and although there are minor problems with client behavior from time to time some groups such as the one this summer exhibit very bad behavior and major disciplinary problems.

Summer Activities

Ms. Kroposky and Ms. Melgar reported that the summer reading program was very successful. Library staff attended the Back to School Block Party I August

Community Development Block Grant

There was a motion by Mrs. Souder, seconded by Ms. Ahbez-Anderson, and carried, all voting yes to submit an application for air conditioning system improvements.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Ahbez-Anderson, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:55 A.M. Carried, all voting yes.

Minutes of this meeting were prepared by Robert W. Stewart, Secretary to the Board, with the assistance of Kathleen Melgar, Assistant Library Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerrin Martin
Board Secretary