

## **March 7, 2023 Bayonne Library Board of Trustees Minutes.**

**7:00 pm:** Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley called the meeting to order and read the “Open Public Meetings Act” announcement once a quorum of members were present.

**Attendance: Present:** Donna Russo, Vincent Pelote, Caroline Ulivella, Ryan Blake

**Absent:** Maribeth Doria (excused), Jennifer Vecchiarelli

**Also Present:** JP Porcaro, Library Director, Melody Scagnelli-Townley, Interim Library Director, Douglas S. Zucker, Esq., Board Attorney

**Agenda item: February 2023 minutes.** Approval of minutes, moved by Vice-President Pelote, Seconded by Secretary Russo, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Agenda item: Consideration of February Bills lists.** Approval of bills list, moved by Secretary Russo, Seconded by Vice-President Pelote, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Agenda item: Construction Project Update.** Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley and Director Porcaro reported that the move to the Story Court 4th St Branch went well. Secretary Russo, in her role as City B.A., has helped us get through some of the initial issues we had with sharing the space. Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley and Director Porcaro had their first in-person meeting with CCH, Tekcon, and all subcontractors. These meetings are going to be held bi-weekly until the end of the project duration. All work performed is on-track or ahead of schedule. Because this is Director Porcaro’s last meeting, Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley and Attorney Zucker have been added to all communications with CCH and Tekcon. Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley, Secretary Russo, in her role as City B.A., and Director of DPW Tommy Cotter will meet to work out future plans to maintain the former Story Court branch library as library branch at least throughout the construction of the main library.

**Agenda item: Director’s Report.** Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley introduced herself officially to the Board. Director Porcaro reported that he has been sharing all legal documents and relevant Library workflows with Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley.

**Agenda item: Old Business.** Attorney Zucker informed the Board that the Personnel Committee will need to start a search for a permanent replacement for Director Porcaro. Secretary Russo, in her role both as City B.A. and Board Secretary, thanked Director Porcaro for his service on behalf of the City and the Mayor. The Board wished Director Porcaro the best in the future. Director Porcaro informed the Board that he remains a Bayonne homeowner and taxpayer. The Board warmly welcomed Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley and thanked her for her eagerness to take command of the Library.

**Agenda item: Public Comments.** Donna Holovach is concerned that the Library will be open during the construction project. Gerry Nowicki alerted Interim Director Scagnelli-Townley that there is a safe with Civil War documents somewhere in the Library.

Attorney Zucker informed the Board that union contract negotiations are ongoing, with President Doria taking Director Porcaro’s place on the negotiating team. Due to personal conflicts, Attorney Zucker will be sending a different lawyer from his firm for the next two meetings, but will remain available to help prepare for the meetings.

**Meeting adjournment was moved by Secretary Russo, seconded by Vice-President Pelote, passed by unanimous voice vote at 7:41 pm.**