

February 6, 2024 Bayonne Library Board of Trustees Minutes.

7:01 pm: Vice-President Pelote called the meeting to order and read the “Open Public Meetings Act” announcement once a quorum of Trustees was present.

Attendance: Present: Vincent Pelote, Ryan Blake, Caroline Ulivella, and Jennifer Vecchiarelli.

Absent: Maribeth Doria (excused). Donna Russo.

Also Present: Melody Scagnelli-Townley, Library Director, Douglas S. Zucker, Esq., Board Attorney, and Michelle Yang, Esq., Weiner Law Group.

Agenda item: January 2024 minutes. Approval of minutes moved by Trustee Blake, seconded by Trustee Ulivella, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda item: Consideration of January Claims List. Approval of the Claims List was moved by Vice-President Pelote, seconded by Trustee Ulivella, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2024-06 “RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF CERTAIN INVOICES TO CLARKE CATON HINTZ FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE LIBRARY”. After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Vice-President Pelote, seconded by Trustee Blake, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2024-07 “RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF CERTAIN INVOICES TO TEKCON CONSTRUCTION FOR CONTRACTING SERVICES FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE LIBRARY”. After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Vice-President Pelote, seconded by Trustee Ulivella, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

Agenda item: Director’s Report (including Construction Updates). For construction updates: Director Scagnelli-Townley summarized key points, which are discussed in more detail in her monthly Director’s Report. She reported on the progress of the 31st St. construction project including the timelines for the required remaining inspections. She reported on the anticipated reopening timeline of the 31st St. building, and on the available services being offered at Story Court. She also reported on progress of the completion of the required “Substantial Changes to Project Request” form and its impact on the payout of the remaining two payments from the Library Construction Bond Act grant.

For non-construction updates: Director Scagnelli-Townley reported on her progress with a hiring plan, including the creation and posting of an Adult Services Librarian position and a Children’s Librarian position. She also reported on short-term plans to hire an Outreach Librarian and a Night Maintenance staff member. Director Scagnelli-Townley reminded the Trustees about the Library’s closures for Presidents’ Day. She detailed two updates to the Bayonne Public Library

website - the addition of the new "Program Policy" and "Social Media Policy". She informed the Trustees about her ongoing work to draft new Library policies with the legal guidance of Board Attorney Zucker. She reminded Trustees that as part of the 2024 paperwork for Per Capita State Aid funding for 2025, she needed to have the email addresses, home address, phone numbers, and term dates of all Trustees. She provided a brief update about the monthly Bayonne Book Club, which continues to have many repeat attendees, both in-person and online via Zoom. A copy of the Director's Report for February 2024 will be maintained on file with these minutes.

Agenda item: Public Comments. Bayonne resident Donna Holovach said that she could not wait for the official reopening of the 31st St building. Bayonne resident Gerry Nowicki recounted the history of the "Man & Mast" lithograph series by historic Bayonne artist, John Noble. This accounting included the history of several lithographs which went missing from the Library many years ago. He spoke about his negotiations with the estate of Walter Wiechetek to regain for the library the missing lithographs. Gerry officially presented the missing lithographs - plus two additional John Noble lithographs - as a gift to the Library valued at \$3,750. Gerry said he had to reframe a couple of the lithographs, for which he paid personally, and he requested that the lithographs be displayed sometime after the 31st St building reopens along with an acknowledgement of Walter Wiechetek and a brief bio. Gerry also requested that the Library consider partnering with The Noble Maritime Collection in Snug Harbor, Staten Island (which also maintains a large John Noble collection) to offer some type of event or speaker about John Noble.

Agenda item: Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Board moved to executive session at 7:33 pm, moved by Vice-President Pelote, seconded by Trustee Blake. During the executive session, Director Scagnelli-Townley updated the Board on various personnel adjustments she plans to implement.

Board moved out of executive session at 8:00 pm moved by Vice-President Pelote, seconded by Trustee Blake.

Meeting adjournment was moved by Trustee Blake, seconded by Vice-President Pelote, passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:03 pm.