

November 11, 2025 Bayonne Library Board of Trustees Minutes.

7:06 pm: President Doria called the meeting to order and read the “Open Public Meetings Act” announcement once a quorum of Trustees was present.

Attendance:

Present: Maribeth Doria, Vincent Pelote, Donna Russo, and Anthony Kufra.

Absent: Ryan Blake (excused), Caroline Ulivella (excused), and Jennifer Vecchiarelli (excused).

Also Present: Melody Scagnelli-Townley, Library Director and Douglas S. Zucker, Esq., Board Attorney.

Agenda item: October 2025 minutes. Approval of minutes moved by Trustee Russo, seconded by President Doria, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda item: Consideration of November Claims List. Approval of the Claims List was moved by Trustee Kufra, seconded by Trustee Russo, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda item: Director’s Report. Director Scagnelli-Townley gave details about the upcoming plans for hiring a new Night Maintenance / Boiler Operator. She reported on 2026 funding amounts from one third mill funding and Per Capita State Aid.

The Director provided information about the addition of The New York Times digital access to the “Newspapers” subpage on the website. She described new online access to The Wall Street Journal. She reminded everyone that the library is closed November 27th through 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Director gave updates about the past month’s programs. She provided information about upcoming programming including a potato stamp art workshop, a financial safety presentation, a puppet making workshop, a presentation on the history of tea, mobile office hours with Congressman Menendez’ office, a Bayonne Historical Society presentation about labor strikes in Bayonne in the early 1900s, and a Peanuts Friendsgiving party for children.

She provided some professional development updates including her attendance at the quarterly Hudson County History & Heritage Committee meeting.

A copy of the Director’s Report for November 2025 will be maintained on file with these minutes.

Agenda item: Community Center Digital Connection Grant Update. Director Scagnelli-Townley summarized the progress thus far on the CCDC grant. She discussed delays with beginning solar panel removals due to delays from the Building Department with issuing permits. She discussed her submission of a monthly expenditure report for September 2025.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2025-37 “RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF CERTAIN INVOICES TO SETTEMBRINO ARCHITECTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES”. After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Vice President Pelote, seconded by President Doria, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2025-38 “RESOLUTION APPROVING TWENTY-FOUR MONTH CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES WITH THE WALL STREET JOURNAL”. After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Trustee Kufta, seconded by Vice President Pelote, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

Agenda item: 2026 Trustees Meeting Schedule discussion. Director Scagnelli-Townley presented the Trustees with a list of proposed 2026 meeting dates. She requested that they look at the dates & at their own calendars and inform her of any issues with the proposed schedule. She informed them that the dates (assuming no adjustments) would be put forward for official approval via resolution at the December 2025 Trustees meeting. There was no further discussion regarding the proposed dates.

Agenda item: Holiday hours discussion. Director Scagnelli-Townley requested a 5 pm closing on the day before Thanksgiving (November 26th) and on December 23rd. The Trustees approved this schedule change.

Agenda item: Early closure for staff holiday party. Director Scagnelli-Townley requested a 5 pm closing on Wednesday, December 10th for the annual staff holiday party. The Trustees approved this schedule change. President Doria asked if the Trustees would be invited to the party. Director Scagnelli-Townley confirmed they would receive an official invitation via email.

Agenda item: Public Comments. Bayonne resident Donna Holovach praised the success of the Sleepy Hollow stage show event. She again requested classes for English-speaking residents to learn Spanish or Arabic. She mentioned that the Reference Room printer was having issues.

Bayonne Resident Gerry Nowicki raised concerns about the basement bathrooms being gender neutral rather than unisex. He shared information about a recently completed local history booklet about Andrew Walsh, a Bayonne Painter. (Many of Walsh’s paintings are housed in the Bayonne Public Library.) He also shared information about the completion of another local history book called “It’s Snowing Again in Bayonne”, which was about the 1947 Blizzard and Blizzard Club. He also offered to photograph and frame the murals painted on the second floor walls before the walls were partially demolished for upcoming renovations.

Meeting adjournment was moved by President Doria, seconded by Trustee Russo, passed by unanimous voice vote at 7:44 pm.