BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
June 21, 2023

In Attendance
Trustees: Holley Barreto, Robert Ginsberg, Jeffrey Liao, Sebnem Tuzun, Chris Van Buren
Library staff: Becky Bowers, Susan Chernik, Susan Conlon, Karen Rackley
Others: Brad Caruso (WithumSmith+Brown)

At 6:01 p.m. Mr. Ginsberg called the meeting to order and announced that in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and State regulations governing public meetings, adequate and electronic notice of this meeting were provided on the annual schedule and sent to the Municipal Clerk, Princeton Packet, Town Topics and Trenton Times, posted in the library, on the library’s and municipality’s websites and distributed to the standard distribution list.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Mr. Van Buren moved approval of the Consent Agenda; Mr. Liao seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- May 11, 2023 Emergency Meeting Minutes
- May 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Final May Bills
- Preliminary June Bills

Audit Presentation – Ms. Chernik introduced Mr. Brad Caruso from WithumSmith+Brown. Ms. Chernik noted the audit went well with thanks to those at the library who provided supporting information and to the audit team.

Mr. Caruso thanked Ms. Chernik and the team at the library for their cooperation in the audit process and referred the Board to the Results of the Dec. 31, 2022 Audit & Required Communications included with the board packet. He noted the financial statements are in accordance with the State of NJ Department of Community Affairs basis of accounting. He read the required communications for the audit and noted the management representation letter will be provided for signature upon approval of the audit report.

Mr. Caruso provided a brief high-level overview of the financial statements and noted there were no instances of non-compliance or other matters, and there were no material weaknesses related to internal control over financial reporting based on the audit.

Board Materials – There was no discussion on the Director’s Report.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

President’s Report – Mr. Ginsberg noted the executive director evaluation committee (Mr. Ginsberg, Ms. Baretto and Ms. Oster) will provide an interim evaluation for the Board to review and comment on; the
evaluation will then be communicated to the executive director. He noted the next evaluation of the executive director will be at the end of the year and is expected to include input from staff.

Friends and Foundation Report – There was no report.

Bylaws and Policies Committee Report – There was no report.

Finance Committee Report – Ms. Chernik noted the Municipality approved their capital budget and the library’s $297,500 capital request for technology upgrades, furniture upgrades and redesign of programming space was included in their approval.

Director’s Report – In Ms. Podolsky’s absence, Ms. Chernik shared with the Board that on Tuesday (6/20), the municipality notified the library that the Spring Street Garage would be repaved over the next several months beginning on July 6. Each floor will be closed off as repaving is performed, making 100 parking spaces unavailable at a time. She noted this may have a financial impact on the library if the municipality does not come up with an acceptable solution, as the library may incur significant additional costs to reimburse employees to park elsewhere. Ms. Chernik noted that Ms. Podolsky will be talking to the municipality to come up with a solution, and will inform the Board when any decisions are made.

Employee Appreciation Committee Report – Ms. Tuzun and Ms. Baretto noted the committee is considering some type of employee appreciation event for September.

Fundraising Report – There was no report.

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

Correspondence – Mr. Ginsberg read the following email from Nicolas DiDomizio:

I would like to submit a comment to the Board of the Public Library to let them know that I support the availability of a wide array of books on LGBTQ+ topics for youth, and I encourage the library to seek more books and resources to be made available on a variety of media including CD and Film. I also support and appreciate that LGTBQ+ materials are available and centrally located on the third floor, as opposed to being obscurely located in various areas of the library. The importance that these resources be made available is simple - not every parent of an LGBTQ+ youth may be supportive. Libraries are spaces where parents typically feel safe with their children being independent, and LGBTQ+ youth can see the library as a safe space to seek information. LGBTQ+ youth must have access to reliable information from sources they can trust. Please continue to have these resources available!

2022 Audit Approval – Ms. Tuzun moved approval of the 2022 Audit as presented; Mr. Van Buren seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments – There were no comments.

Proposed Agenda Items – There were no proposed agenda items.

Meeting Schedule/Adjournment – Mr. Van Buren motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2023.