

East Brunswick Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
July 16, 2024

Attendees:

Otu Amankwah	Karen Parry, Interim Library Director
Dr. Kenneth Freedman	Maria Carmelo, Exec. Admin. Assistant
Lisa Gurevich	Mayor Brad Cohen (arr. 7:18 pm)
Joseph Palombit	Angel Albanese, Director of Finance (arr. 7:21 pm)
Colleen Talbot	

Mr. Amankwah called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. A roll call was made and a quorum was present. Mr. Amankwah stated that the meeting was advertised and the Open Public Meeting Act requirements were met.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Closed Session:**

Dr. Freedman made a motion to enter closed session at 7:05 pm. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

The Board returned to open session at 7:15 pm.

**Minutes of June 18, 2024:**

Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024 meeting. Ms. Gurevich seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

**Closed Session Minutes of June 18, 2024:**

Mr. Palombit made a motion to approve the closed session minutes of the June 18, 2024 meeting. Dr. Freedman seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

**Public Participation:**

There was no Teen Report.

There was no Friends Report.

There was no Foundation Report.

Colleen Talbot presented the Township Report. The second Farmer's Market of the summer is scheduled to take place on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal Complex. East Brunswick Day is scheduled for Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Community Arts Center and this years Mayor's Gala will be held on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Park Chateau.

There was no School District Report.

There were no public comments.

**Financial Report:**

Mayor Cohen and Angel Albanese announced that there will be a change in the format of financial reports provided in the monthly Board of Trustees Board packet. The updated format of the reports will show a budget summary instead of itemized reports, simplifying the reporting of data and providing Library Department Managers details that everything is on track percentage wise.

Ms. Gurevich made a motion to approve the July 17, 2024 bill list. Dr. Freedman seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

**Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**Reports of Standing and Special Committees:**

There were no reports of standing or special committee reports.

**Director's Report:**

Ms. Parry presented the June Director's Report. Ms. Parry was excited to announce that the library has hired a new full time Accessibility Librarian. The gap in inclusivity and accessibility has been a huge hole in service that has been brought to light by schools and patrons of the library. This newly created position will bridge the gap for patrons with special needs, including children and adults with intellectual disabilities as well as seniors, helping to make programs more inclusive and compliant for everyone who visits the library.

The library is working with the YMCA summer camp director to organize a weekly reading for the 4 and 5 year old students. A library staff member will visit the YMCA every Tuesday while camp is in session for story time and a health and wellness discussion.

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the June 2024 Director's Report. Ms. Gurevich seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

**Information Items:**

Dr. Freedman and Ms. Parry met with a representative from the vending machine company to discuss adding a third vending machine to the library café area.

**Closed Session:**

Dr. Freedman made a motion to enter closed session at 7:54 pm. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

The Board returned to open session at 8:08 pm.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Dr. Freedman made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Ms. Talbot seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. Wayne Christie, Secretary