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MINUTES

GARFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Wednesday,

May 31, 2023

The regular meeting of Wednesday, May 31, 2023 was called to order at 7:00 PM by President, Raymond Rivas.

1. President Raymond Rivas asked for the Roll Call:

Present:

President, Raymond Rivas (via Zoom)

Vice President Ruth Springer

Treasurer Suny Mellawa

Secretary Michael Kupec, Jr.

Trustee, Thomas Derr

Alternate for Superintendent Anna Sciacca, Marie Marx (via Zoom)

Alternate for Mayor Richard Rigoglioso, Christopher Braitsch

Director, Mary Jo Jennings

Absent:

Acting Superintendent of Schools, Nick Perapato

Mayor, Richard Rigoglioso

2. President, Raymond Rivas read the following statement:

- Pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1976, adequate written notice of this meeting, together with the agenda of this meeting is to be:
- permanently posted on the Board's officially designated public bulletin board, located in the Garfield Public Library lobby, 500 Midland Avenue, in the City of Garfield
- delivered to the Passaic Herald News, and the Community News, newspapers circulating in the City of Garfield,
- filed with the City Clerk of the City of Garfield; and
- mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice, pursuant
- to Section 14 of Chapter 231, Laws of 1976.

3. Motion made by Suny Mellawa to accept the minutes and seconded by Chris Braitsch. Unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4. Communications:

Trustee Institute -Mary Jo reminded us of the upcoming (in-person) Trustee Institute scheduled for fall 2024.

United for Libraries Organization - The "United for Libraries Organization" group that we can join to network with library trustees across the country.

Trustee Orientation - This is being offered - focusing on the First Amendment to prepare trustees for anyone challenging our practices in the building,

Garfield City Council - At a recent council meeting the library pension was discussed. The City Manager/City Clerk stated that the CFO Hassler recently noted that the city has absorbed the employer pension costs for the library personnel for several years. Delaney suggested that this be charged to the library moving forward as they are a separate entity and should be treated as such. Additionally, she shared that the city's required contribution went up significantly this year, bringing the total to over $1 million. The governing body supported this suggestion.

MaryJo reported that at the cocktail hour of the Library's Centennial Gala she heard that there is now a second rendition of what the Mayor wants to do the the block of building on Midland Avenue (library, health center, Boys and Girls Club, etc. ...creating one huge complex that is interconnected).

5. Community Room Request: No requests to book the room.

6. No comments on the Director's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

7. No questions on the Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Centennial Committee Report: Ruth Springer indicated that a wrap-up meeting is scheduled for next week and a report will follow.

9. Foundation Report: No report.

10. Friends Report: Michael reminded the trustees of the rescheduling of the Book Sale. He also noted that there were no other changes to the previous list of "planned events". Michael mentioned that the Friends group was very much looking forward to the Joshua Bell concert at NJPAC.

11. Bylaws: MaryJo reminded us that we need to look at the bylaws…including term limits.

12. Health Benefits Deductions: Mary Jo Jennings reported that the health benefit deductions were corrected to date …once she got the library attorney involved and they are now waiting for the union contract to be implemented, (agreed upon), and thus implemented before they do any increases related to health insurance deductions. MaryJo reminded the trustees to review the cba for any changes they would like to make.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Observance of Juneteenth (for purposes of contract) - Question is, "should we follow the federal or state practice?" Federal is roving like the July 4th holiday. The state of New Jersey it is the third Friday in June.

Motion made by Raymond to observe Juneteenth following the Federal guidelines and seconded by Ruth. Motion passed.

14. Reserved Bookshelf: Marie Marx asked if a bookshelf could be reserved for students working on a special project (local kid author shelf) that a teacher has established.

15. Rosetta Stone - Marie Marx inquired about how to access Rosetta Stone for a patron of ours who is originally from Albania. Per our website, it was available. (This was available through the state and was stopped at some point. Mary Jo will follow up on this. The state may have moved to a different language company. MaryJo will also have our website updated.)

16. Centennial Celebration for Community - June the 24th, for folks that could not pay the $150 for the Gala. (Event to include stone painting, face painting, summer reading kick-off, egg races, tossing games, henna workshop, etc.)

17. Personnel: None.

18. Michael Kupec, Jr. made the following motion and Suny Mellawa seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Meeting of the Garfield Free Public Library Board of Trustees was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Resolution was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kupec, Jr.
Trustee / Secretary