

The Johnson Public Library Board of Trustees held their meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Ms. Linda Flynn, Presiding

Ms. Kristi Izzo

Mr. Anthony Marseglia

Laura Kirsch, Esq.

Ms. Cindi Ortiz

Ex-Officio

Ms. Stephanie Von Rudenborg, Council Liaison

Also Present

Ms. Tara Cooper, Director

Mrs. Ann Bowen, Principal Account Clerk

Ms. Gladys Cepeda, Library Associate

Not Present

Ms. Robin Coles

Ms. Sonia Recarte

Mr. Robert Sanchez, Supt. of Schools

2. Meeting Notification Statement

1. One copy posted on the bulletin board of the Library

2. One copy filed with the City Clerk

3. One copy posted to the Library's Webpage-noting meeting will be conducted via Zoom

4. One copy sent to the Record

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, August 11, 2020

On motion of Ms. Kirsch, seconded by Ms. Ortiz, the minutes of August 11, 2020 Board Meeting were approved.

6. List of Bills: Ms. Cooper

September 2020 Budgetary Account Bills \$340,999.91

On motion of Mr. Marseglia, seconded by Ms. Kirsch, the bills were approved for payment.

7. Budget and Finance Committee: Ms. Kirsch

Ms. Kirsch said we are monitoring our expenses and are holding our own.

The city's 2020 first quarter medical bill will be paid this month. We have received the second quarter bill and will pay it if we can. We have had discussions with Jim Mangin and he understands our situation.

Ms. Kirsch said we are being careful but could take money out of the Trustee Reserve if necessary. She will keep the Board informed as we go forward.

8. Building and Grounds: Ms. Kirsch

Ms. Kirsch said we do not have a timeline, but the renovation grant applications are in the process of being reviewed. We will have to wait for a decision. Some applications received comments, ours did not.

A sewer pipe that was uncapped caused a flood in the basement. There was no damage. Tony Lombardi did a great job in cleaning up the area affected by the water and the pipe has been capped.

Ms. Kirsch reported the storm did not do any damage and the building is in good shape.

9. Community Affairs:

Ms. Ortiz read from the September Press Release.

(See attached.)

10. Librarian's Report: Ms. Cooper

Ms. Flynn said Ms. Cooper's Director's Report is very good.

Ms. Cooper said the library has seen a slow and steady increase in use since we had our limited opening. As the state approved indoor dining on September 2nd It feels as though we can now move into a modified "Phase 4".

We will be open for browsing and use of the public computers on a limited basis. Browsing will be allowed in the Children's Room with a parent in attendance. Periodicals and the Meeting rooms will remain closed.

MeeScan, a new app that we subscribe to via BCCLS, will allow patrons to scan books on the shelf and walk out without contact with the staff.

Pete Lohrmann and Tony Lombardi will clean the public restrooms daily and remove chairs on the main floor as no public seating will be available.

The hours the library is open will remain the same at this time.

Ms. Cooper said participation in our summer reading programs was more than expected considering the current situation. The Children's summer reading program had over 2600 books being read. All in total, for all ages, we had 2800 books read.

Ms. Cooper said the Greater Alliance Credit Union generously donated \$1,000 to the Friends of the Library.

The Friends have ordered tote bags that they are selling as a fundraiser.

11. Old Business

No report

12. New Business

a. Update on New Jersey Library construction Bond Act

Ms. Cooper said that the library construction bond act applications are being reviewed and the recommended projects will be forwarded to the State Librarian by early September.

b. Seton Hall Town Hall on COVID vaccine

Seton Hall is working with Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine to recruit a diverse group of people to participate in vaccine trials for COVID-19.

Their statement says “initiative to help build trust between the medical system and vulnerable populations who have been hit the hardest by COVID-19, making it even more important for them to be included in ongoing research trials so we can understand how to best meet their needs.”

Ms. Cooper said I think they would like to partner with the library to make information available to our community and anyone who might be interested in participating in the trials.

13. Adjournment

On motion of Ms. Izzo, seconded by Ms. Ortiz, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L.C. Ortiz
Secretary

