

The Johnson Public Library Board of Trustees held their meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 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  
Ms. Robin Coles

Also Present

Ms. Tara Cooper, Director  
Mrs. Ann Bowen, Principal Account Clerk  
Ms. Genesis Jais, Librarian  
Ms. Gladys Cepeda, Library Associate

Not Present

Ms. Sonia Recarte  
Ms. Stephanie Von Rudenborg, Council Liaison  
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, November 10, 2020

On motion of Ms. Izzo, seconded by Ms. Kirsch, the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting were approved.

Ms. Cooper said she would like to thank Ms. Ortiz for taking time to go over the minutes as it has been a very challenging year with many changes and Ann and I

appreciate the help.

4. Public Comment

No report

5. Treasurer's Report: Ms. Kirsch

a. Report: Ms. Kirsch

November 30, 2020

Year-to-Date

Operating Account

Income:

\$225,467.73

\$2,773,692.28

Disbursements

154,671.18

2,522,374.51

Cash balance November 30, 2020

\$ 251,317.77

November 2020

Capital Account:

Income:

\$ 6.48

Disbursements:

00.00

Cash balance November 30, 2020

\$ 30,595.57

November 2020

Donation Account:

Income:

\$ 00.28

Disbursements:

00.00

Cash balance November 30, 2020

\$ 1,311.17

November 2020

Paver Account:

Income:

\$ 1.74

00.00

Cash balance November 30, 2020

\$ 8,156.68

On motion of Ms. Ortiz, seconded by Ms. Coles, the reports were accepted.

6. List of Bills: Ms. Cooper

December 2020 Budgetary Account Bills                      \$336,763.77

Ms. Cooper said the total is high because it includes the 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter medical payment of \$163,606.85 which is our fourth and final medical payment for the year.

The Capital and Paver accounts had no bills.

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

7. Budget and Finance Committee: Ms. Kirsch

Ms. Kirsch reported that the City is reducing our next two checks by \$31,000 for a total of \$62,000. That is equal to what was saved by furloughing from March through August as they were paying the unemployment. That is the bad news, the good news is we will have enough to carry us through the end of the year and pay the first payroll of January without dipping into our reserves.

That is actually two years of not having to dip into our reserves. We are careful with the money and hopefully we will see what the City is going to give us in terms of our appropriation next year. We did send over our budget request, so we will see.

On motion of Ms. Ortiz, seconded by Mr. Marseglia, the report was accepted.

8. Building and Grounds: Ms. Kirsch

Ms. Kirsch said Tony and Ryan worked patching a few large pot holes in the parking lot, Tony was able to acquire additional wood chips from the City at no cost, and is beginning to set up our holiday decorations. Meli plumbing was making minor but necessary repairs to two toilets in the building. We are getting upgraded air filters from Statewide HVAC, to improve air quality during the winter months, especially with the current health situation. Generally speaking, the building and grounds are in good condition with no major issues to report. In concert with the finances the fabric of the building in our trust is pretty good.

On motion of Ms. Coles, seconded by Ms. Izzo, the report was accepted.

Ms. Cooper said she would like to thank Ms. Kirsch for all her work with building and grounds; it's a lot of work and is much appreciated.

9. Personnel Committee: Mr. Marseglia

a. Ryan Schrock

Mr. Marseglia said Ryan Schrock was hired November 17, 2020 as a part time building maintenance worker at \$18 per hour for twenty hours per week to assist Tony Lombardi.

On motion of Mr. Marseglia, seconded by Ms. Kirsch, the personnel action was approved.

Ms. Cooper said just to comment on Mr. Schrock he is a marine and works overnight in Times Square and Staten Island with a bomb sniffing dog. He is a super hard worker and really cares about the building. He works well with Tony, who really needed the help.

10. Community Affairs: Ms. Ortiz

Ms. Ortiz read from the December Press Release.

11. Librarian's Report: Ms. Cooper

Ms. Cooper reported that on November 16th, after the Governor released a new EO further limiting indoor gatherings, at which point she made the decision to dial our services back to Phase 2 – indoor holds pickups and print pickups only. We remained closed on November 17th to set the building up for this, and re-opened on November 18th with limited services. Although it was not an easy decision to reduce what we are making available to the public, this decision reflects us being proactive and a part of the solution versus the problem. Since our announcement, many other BCCLS libraries have completely closed or gone back to holds pickups only. Recently, City Hall also closed completely to the public.

Ms. Cooper reported that the City on Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> began offering Covid-19 testing for City employees at the Civic Center. It is voluntary and there is no charge for the test.

We will be co-hosting our first shared program along with Englewood, Teaneck, Fort Lee and Bergenfield Public Libraries. From the Press Release, written by our own Laurie Meeske:

“Bergenfield Public Library, Englewood Public Library, Fort Lee Public Library, Hackensack’s Johnson Public Library, and Teaneck Public Library have partnered to host authors and scholars A. Kirsten Mullen and William Darity, Jr. for a virtual discussion of their book *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century* on Thursday, January 14 at 7 p.m.

*From Here to Equality* examines the economic divide between black and white Americans and makes a comprehensive case for how a reparations program for U.S. descendants of slavery could close that gap. Mullen and Darity assert that today’s black-white wealth gap originated with the unfulfilled promise of 40 acres in 1865, and that the payment of this debt in the 21st century is feasible—and at least 155 years overdue.”

The two speakers require a fee that none of these libraries could have afforded on their own. The \$2000 fee will be shared by all five libraries, but the speakers requested each library purchase \$400 of their books and the books will be given out at the program. We will be working with the same group of libraries to offer more shared programs in the future. I asked Ms. Jais and Ms. Meeske to do the promotional graphics for this first program and they did a wonderful job. The additional benefit of increased marketing is also a positive side effect of the arrangement.

Ms. Izzo asked how many people can register at one time.

Ms. Cooper said about 100. A larger platform could be arranged if necessary. At this time Ms. Cooper reported that 35 people have registered for the program.

Ms. Cooper said the staff is doing an amazing job, they’re flexible and adapting well to the many changes required to continue to offer our services in the safest way possible.

12.. Old Business

No report.

13. New Business

a. Board of Trustees meeting dates – 2021

The Trustees reviewed the schedule of meetings for 2021.

Ms. Cooper said she added July and August to the schedule along with an additional statement about meeting virtually in case there should be any questions.

b. Library holidays – 2021

Ms. Cooper said Labor Day Saturday – 9/4/2021 should have been included on the list. After the meeting Ms. Cooper will email an updated to copy to the Trustees.

The library will again be closed on Veteran’s Day for staff development and possibly a day in April, but that decision will not be made until the end of February.

Mr. Marseglia offered his kudos to the Board; he reviewed the audit and said that the library has a very solid financial situation.

Mr. Marseglia asked if any financial information was requested with the grant application.

Ms. Cooper said no.

c. Friends of the Library – coordination of Advocacy

Ms. Cooper said the Friends want to have a discussion with the Board. I suggest meeting in early spring after getting a budget number to coordinate advocacy efforts.

14. Adjournment

On motion of Ms. Ortiz, seconded by Ms. Coles, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia L.C. Ortiz  
Secretary

