

Hamilton Township Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, June 28, 2021 5:00 p.m. This public meeting is taking place in Room 2 at the Hamilton Free Public Library. All meetings of this group will be audio recorded.

Members Present: Mr. Santamaria, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Atkin, Ms. Bradley, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti, and Library Director, Mr. Chianese
Members Absent: Mr. Kovacs

Review and Consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board: Approval of the May 24, 2021 minutes were moved by Ms. Tonti, seconded by Ms. DeAngelo. Language will be changed to reflect that the Mayor's comments were provided to the Director prior to the Board meeting.

Voting Yea: Mr. Santamaria, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Atkin, Ms. Bradley, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Tonti

Members Absent: Mr. Kovacs

Abstained: Ms. Rogers

Consideration of the Treasurer's Report: Approval of the June 2021 Treasurer's Report was moved by Ms. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Bradley. This will be the last month with the temporary budget. The full budget was provided to Scott by the Township this week.

Voting Yea: Mr. Santamaria, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Atkin, Ms. Bradley, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

Members Absent: Mr. Kovacs

Consideration of the Library Bill List:

Approval of the June 2021 Bill List was moved by Ms. D'Angelo, seconded by Ms. Rogers.

Voting Yea: Mr. Santamaria, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Atkin, Ms. Bradley, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

Members Absent: Mr. Kovacs

Director's Report:

Mr. Chianese welcomed everyone back to meeting in person. Library opened to the public on June 1st. Restrictions have been gradually lifting, e.g., computer use does not require an appointment, additional furniture has been added. Time limitations on visits and computer use remain. Face coverings are still required. Quarantining, disinfection, and curbside service for materials have ceased. Although curbside service is still available upon request.

The Friends of the Library book sale is scheduled for July 17 and 19, 2021, using all 3 downstairs rooms.

Mr. Chianese reported on COVID-19 precautions at other libraries in our area: Mercer County Library System (MCLS) is still operating with

limited hours. Princeton Public Library has limited hours. We are back to full opening hours. Masks are still required at MCLS and Princeton Public Library. Neither of these libraries are allowing meeting room use. Princeton is starting to allow study room use.

Budget - The Library just received budget numbers from the township this week. Mr. Chianese met with the Township regarding the fee increases, to ask for relief. It does not look like relief will be available this year. Income sources for the Library and The Friends of the Library were limited during the pandemic, so the budget will be tight.

Retirement Resolution - The Director asked the Board President to prepare a resolution noting the retirement of Ms. Doreen Chianese after 38 years of service.

Children's Specials and Programs - Although the Library is no longer delivering materials curbside (except when specifically requested), we continue to offer special craft projects for our younger patrons to complete at home with their families, and have started presenting programs (virtual and outdoor). The first outdoor program took place at the gazebo, and was successful.

A "Story Walk" has been installed in the windows of the library, so children/families can read them outdoors as they walk around the building.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

The board discussed and considered the merits of the remaining pandemic-related restrictions on meeting room use and face coverings, and possible rescinding of these restrictions.

Comments from board members Atkin, Santamaria, and Rogers focused on the concerns/unknowns associated with variants of the virus being reported, the library's obligation to protect the library-using public, and the need to follow current public health guidelines for public/government buildings (e.g., the post office). It was also noted that the presence of children, who are currently ineligible for vaccination, add to the potential risks/exposure for other patrons.

A motion to remove the mask wearing policy was tabled for future consideration.

Resolution # 21-007

Retirement of Doreen Chianese. Mr. Santamaria read the resolution aloud. Resolution #21-007 was moved by Ms. Santamaria, seconded by Ms. Rogers.

Voting Yea: Mr. Santamaria, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Atkin, Ms. Bradley, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti.

Members Absent: Mr. Kovacs

Committee Report:

By-Laws Review: Ms. Rogers, as chair, has forwarded the existing by-laws to the committee, and thanks the Board for tabling this committee in during her absence. Ms. Rogers asked that the committee members remain after the current meeting to agree to a schedule for collection of comments, and completion of the review.

Public Comment:

Don Dileo

13 Rockville Road, Yardville

Mr. Dileo requested reopening of the meeting rooms for public. Mr. Dileo represents Trenton Coin Club, would be willing to require masks during meeting room use, most members over 65, and eligible for vaccination. Will report back to his members that the meeting rooms remain closed.

Rodney Richards

4 Village Drive West, Yardville

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Mr. Richards represents the creative writers group, and is asking the board to review the meeting room use policy on a monthly basis, due to all or the interest.

Mr. Richards is also a member of the environmental commission, and hopes that our systems are being checked regularly, and suggests the use of portable air cleaners in the public spaces and meeting rooms.

Mr. Richards is also a member of the Friends of the Library. Would like to share his review of our by-laws.

Adjournment of the meeting: Hearing no more business before the Board, Ms. Tonti moved to close the meeting at 5:28 PM. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, July 26, 2021, at 5:00 pm in Room 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Rogers

Secretary