

Hamilton Township Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, February 28, 2022 5:00 p.m. in Room 2 of the Library. This public meeting is taking place in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act. All meetings of this group will be audio recorded.

Members Present: Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Atkin, Ms. Bradley, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti, and Library Director, Mr. Chianese
Members Absent: none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jim Federicci, 9 Benson Lane
president of the Historical Society of Hamilton Township
Requests the reopening of the large meeting rooms for the Historical Society's April, May, June, September, October, and November regular meeting dates. Would be willing to require that members wear masks and adhere to other guidelines.

Mr. Harry Meeks, 8 Green Court
"Representing many voices of the Library and the Township"
Requests a mask-optional library and open meeting rooms, citing new CDC guidelines, and the new mask guidance issued by the Mayor. Stated that the Library is "the last place in Hamilton requiring masks."

Mary Lopez, 35B Stenton Court
Reference department supervisor, HTPL
Requests on behalf of the reference department staff, that the mask mandate for library staff and patrons be kept in place, due to the lengthy periods of close contact when assisting patrons one-on-one. Noted that other libraries in Mercer County are still requiring masks, and that the small size of the department will make it difficult to cover the reference desk if someone becomes ill. If masks become optional, Ms. Lopez requests that room occupancy be limited.

MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

Review and Consideration of the minutes of the January 18, 2022 special meeting of the Board: Approval of the January 18, 2022 minutes were moved by Ms. DeAngelo and seconded by Ms. Tonti.

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

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes

Review and Consideration of the minutes of the January 24, 2022 regular meeting of the Board: Approval of the January 24, 2022 minutes were moved by Ms. Tonti and seconded by Ms. Bradley.

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

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes

Consideration of the Treasurer's Report: Approval of the February 2022 Treasurer's Report was moved by Ms. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Tonti.

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

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes

Consideration of the Library Bill List: Approval of the February 2022 Bill List was moved by Ms. Bradley, and seconded by Ms. DeAngelo

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

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes

Director's Report:

Mr. Chianese reported on recent and upcoming library activities and events, including:

- Mask distribution on February 10th, in cooperation with the Township Health Department and Olden Pharmacy was a success.
- Would like the Board to consider approval of the Friends of the Library book sale for March 2022.
- Hamilton Township School District is requesting use of the Children's Room for video recording read-alouds at the beginning of April to support Autism Awareness.
- Seeking Board approval of a new IT managed services agreement under new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 22-003, Approval of a managed IT services agreement with Ocean Computer Group was moved by Ms. DeAngelo, and seconded by Ms. Tonti. The Director's presentation included discussion of the bidding process through the Township purchasing office, and the responses received. Ocean Computing Group's bid was significantly lower than other proposals, and has been providing services for the Township Police Department and municipal offices for many years.

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

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 22-002, Approval of the results of the Board Election held on January 24, 2022 was moved by Ms. Bradley, and seconded by Ms. Tonti. Officers for 2022, elected at the January reorganization meeting were: President, Mr. Leonard Santamaria; Vice President and Treasurer, Ms. Toni DeAngelo; Secretary, Ms. Renee Rogers.

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

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes

Resolution 22-004, Resolution to rescind the mask policy for Library staff and patrons, effective March 7, 2022 was moved by Ms. Tonti, and seconded by Ms. Rogers. Mr. Chianese read a statement from the Children's Room staff requesting that masks be required during programmed events. Board members voiced concerns for staff and patron safety given the evolving nature of the pandemic, including emerging variants; the need to identify a "standard" or threshold to be met as other public spaces are opening. It was noted that the library has been following CDC guidelines, and that the new CDC guidelines are based on weekly county-level COVID data, and show NJ and Mercer County at low risk of transmission (as of February 24, 2022). The full resolution was read aloud by Mr. Santamaria.

Voting Yea: Mr. Santamaria ("with concerns"), Ms. Bradley, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

Voting Present: Mr. Atkin

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes with 6 in favor and 1 present.

Resolution 21-014 Amendment to the Policies of Meeting Rooms (Reconsideration), effective March 7, 2022 was moved by Ms. Tonti and seconded by Ms. DeAngelo.

The board discussed and considered the merits of the remaining pandemic-related restrictions on meeting room use. Board members noted concerns consistent with the previous discussion regarding the mask policy. It was noted and clarified that a "yea" vote is to lift the pandemic-related restrictions on meeting room use, and to allow the meeting rooms to re-open for use, starting March 7, 2022, and the full resolution was read aloud.

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

Voting Present: Mr. Atkin

Voting Nay: none

Motion passes with 6 in favor and 1 present.

RETURN TO NEW BUSINESS

The Board briefly discussed and noted that the Friends of the Library book sale, and the use of the Children's Room by the Hamilton Township Public School District for the April 1, 2022 read-aloud recording were no longer restricted by the meeting room closures and could process under normal operations of the Library, without a need for additional motions to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Hearing no more business, Ms. Tonti moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Renee Rogers
Secretary