

Hamilton Township Free Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, September 26, 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. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti, and Library Director, Mr. Chianese

Members Absent: Mr. Santamaria

Mr. Chianese opened the meeting by introducing new library staff member, Mr. Jeff Guear, to the Board.

MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

Review and Consideration of the minutes of the July 25, 2022 regular meeting of the Board: Approval of the July 25, 2022 minutes were moved by Mr. Cimino and seconded by Ms. Tonti.

Voting Yea: Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

Voting Nay: none

Abstain: none

Members Absent: Mr. Santamaria

Motion passes

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

Voting Yea: Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

Voting Nay: none

Abstain: none

Members Absent: Mr. Santamaria

Motion passes

Consideration of the Library Bill List: Approval of the September 2022 Bill List was moved by Mr. Cimino, and seconded by Ms. Rogers.

Voting Yea: Mr. Atkin, Mr. Cimino, Ms. DeAngelo, Mr. Gedeika, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Tonti

Voting Nay: none

Abstain: none

Members Absent: Mr. Santamaria

Motion passes

Director's Report:

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

- Hamilton Township Schools Transition Program
- Monthly Health Displays in collaboration with our Township Health

Department.

- Summer clinics at the Library for NARCAN awareness with the Hamilton Alliance Against Abuse for Overdose Awareness Day, and pediatric COVID vaccination and awareness with the Health Department.
- The Library will be a NARCAN Dispersal Site for the Mercer County Department of Human Services Outreach & Harm Reduction Services Division.
- The Library will host a Flu Shot Clinic with the Township Health Department on October 22nd.
- The Unique Management contract to collect fines was ended.
- Return of the Movie of the Week as of September 13th.
- Upcoming Programs: "Scarecrow Contest and Fall Festival" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". Mr. Chianese expressed thanks to the Friends of the Library for providing the prizes for the upcoming Scarecrow Contest, and funding the Sleepy Hollow program with Master Storyteller, John Kruk.

In response to the ending of the contract with Unique Management, Mr. Gedeika asked about the library's fine-free pilot program. Mr. Chianese reported that 726 items were returned so far in September, with 127 of those items being 1-6 months overdue (predating the fine-free pilot program), and one returned item was more than 5 years overdue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 22-009 Reinstatement of mask wearing for all persons visiting or working at the Library. The Board continues to revisit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on library operations each month, reviewing local data, and the most recent guidance from the CDC and local authorities. Items discussed included current CDC guidelines, and the current Community Level for Mercer County (i.e., "Low").

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Darrell Vigh
15 Benson Lane

Speaking on behalf of the Friends of the Library, Ms. Vigh announced that the Friends have magazines (as well as books) for sale, there are flyers available for the upcoming Friends of the Library book sales, and that the Friends do not censor donated books, they sell everything that is donated. The Friends' most recent book sales generated \$5882 for the Library. Ms. Vigh complimented the children's librarian for the programming and planning done for the children's room, and noted the thought and detail that go into planning events.

Ms. Tonti complimented the Friends on the recent children's concert that they sponsored, and thanked them for the programming that they support for the Library and community.

Rodney Richards
4 Village Drive

Mr. Richards expressed concern about book banning efforts in the news, and is interested in having a voice as a citizen if books are challenged, and "before a decision is made and books are removed."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:51 pm, Ms. Tonti moved that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Returning to the regular session at 5:59 pm, Mr. Atkin complimented Ms. DeAngelo on overseeing the meeting in Mr. Santamaria's absence.

Hearing no more business, Ms. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Renee Rogers
Secretary