

Board of Trustees
Mireya Alfonso, Pres
Beth Binde
Deborah Celey
Carmen Diaz
Nilda Gutierrez
Josephine Marchetta
Russell Marchetta
Karen Monus
Benito Ortiz
Cecilia Clafien, Emeritus

New Brunswick Free Public Library

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Minutes, Board of Trustees

September 25, 2013 5:00 p.m.

1. Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting. Notice of the meeting was sent electronically to the Home News Tribune and was posted in the library, on the library website, and at City Hall.
2. Call to Order.
3. Roll Call. Present: Alfonso, Binde, Celey, Diaz, Gutierrez; Excused: Clafien, J. Marchetta, R. Marchetta, Monus, Ortiz; Staff: Belvin.
4. Approval of Excused Absences. Binde (Celey), unanimous. Belvin noted that Crittenden was absent due to her vacation in England with her husband.
5. Approval of Agenda. Celey (Gutierrez), unanimous.
6. Approval of Minutes of the August 28 Meeting. Diaz (Celey), unanimous.
7. Approval of Bills. Postponed due to a problem in printing the list.
8. Closing Policy and Calendar of Operations, 2014. Binde (Celey), unanimous.
9. Committee Reports.

9.1. Policy Committee:

- 9.1.1. Charging for Services: Belvin brought to the Board's attention a draft that had been submitted to the NJLA Public Policy Committee, "Charging for Public Library Services Statement: Charging for public library services is against the principles of librarianship and the principles, purpose and spirit under which public libraries were established.

The American Library Association statement concerning economic barriers says 'charging fees for the use of library collections, services, programs and facilities that were purchased using public funds raises barriers to access, such fees effectively reinforce distinctions among users based on the ability to pay.'

...

Public library services include lending materials, interlibrary loan, class instruction, programs, and use of digital databases, computers, library space and meeting rooms. Therefore, library services include any services provided using library funding. Services some libraries are charging for: Borrowing materials; Programs; ESL classroom instruction; Database access; Interlibrary loans; Computer use and instruction; Use of tables, chairs, meeting rooms.

Charging for library services only appears in municipal Library Laws NJSA 40:54-17 and 40:54-17.1. These laws allow only for the charging of fines and photocopying. Any library considering selling library services should first consult an attorney regarding legal issues such as a lack of enabling legislation permitting trustees the power to impose additional fees, sales tax collection, discrimination, privacy, and the obligation to return all but fines and photocopy fees to the municipality.

Residents are paying taxes that support the library and its programs. Their use of library services should be celebrated, not taxed by additional fees.”

Belvin noted in the discussion at the Public Policy Committee’s September meeting that the representative for the State Librarian had pointed out the issues of collecting sales tax and that governmental bodies are only authorized to charge fees for services they are specifically authorized to do by legislation.

- 9.1.2. Meeting Room: Belvin discussed with the Board the problem of locking up the Henry Guest House at night after meetings, especially when the library is staffed at minimal or below minimal levels. Belvin spoke of his idea of having users lock the building so that the staff did not have to and the concerns of some librarians that some users would fail to lock the building. Diaz suggested that the user be required to go back to the library and sign that they had probably closed the building. If they failed to close the building or sign out, their future bookings would be automatically canceled. Belvin will try to develop this into text for an amendment to the Meeting Room Policy.

9.2. Finance Committee. No report in Ortiz’s absence.

9.3. Program Committee.

- 9.3.1. Los Lienzos de Santa Maria de Zacatepec: The exhibition opens on September 26 with the participation of Mr. Domingo Cruz Salvador in representation of local officials from Santa Maria de Zacatepec and Rosalba Perez Bautista, director of Teatro Tacuate. Anthropologist Bas van Doesburg of the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) will provide a closing talk about the project on October 22, 2013. They are exploring the possibility (if funding permits) of adding one program, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 28. The program would feature children’s book author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh, who would read from his two books, *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours* and *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*, and possibly teach Mixteco-styled pictographic illustration to the children. See <http://www.duncantonatiuh.com/>.

- 9.3.2. Our Town: George Street Playhouse and the Mason Gross School of the Arts is cooperating on producing *Our Town*, the classic Thornton Wilder play which was first performed at the McCarter in Princeton in 1938. It later went to Broadway and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The play will open on April 25, 2014 for a one-month run. In addition to the play, they are creating a community-based piece based on, “What does it mean to live in our town of New Brunswick now?” Belvin reported he had offered to support the production by providing access to the photography and oral history files of the library and adjusting the photography contest so it can use the theme of *Our Town*. In addition, the Community Arts Council wants to create a mural on the side of the library’s garage.

- 9.3.3. Photography: The photographs that were at the Heldrich from this past summer’s contest to George Street Playhouse and that they will be exhibited there. Belvin and Pandey met with Jim Jack the Director of

Education and Outreach George Street Playhouse about the possibility of cooperating on our contest this year and their *Our Town* project.

- 9.4. Friend's Liaison. The September Noontime Program was the music of the Beatles as performed by three members of the *Hey Bulldog*. The Friend's of the Library had a table at the ethnic food program for the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commissions program at the CrossRoads Theater. They displayed some of the library's cookbooks and distributed information about the library and the Friends. The next Noontime program will be October 2. It is *Determined Spirit: The Story of Amelia Earhart*, a one-woman show by Monica Hoffman.
10. Directors Report.
 - 10.1. ALA Mid-Winter Conference: The American Library Association 2014 Midwinter Meeting and Exhibition will be at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia from January 24-to 28, 2014
 - 10.2. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy: Belvin met with Dean James Hughes, Associate Dean Thea Berkhout, and Professor David Listokin on September 23 to explore ways to library and the Bloustein School to support each other's work. Since then, Belvin has shared via a flash drive over 30 gigabytes of pictures that the library has scanned.
 - 10.3. College Avenue Redevelopment Initiative: Belvin attended the groundbreaking ceremonies at which Mayor Cahill, Christopher Paladino, Rutgers President Robert Barchi and Governor Christie spoke.
 - 10.4. Computer Tutoring: Collaborating with Rutgers Student Volunteer Council, the library is again offering one-on-one computer skill tutoring to those who need to learn the basics of using a computer.
 - 10.5. Dehumidifier Recall: There was a major (2,000,000+) recall of dehumidifiers. Belvin reported he had checked the library's dehumidifiers and they were not on the list of covered models.
 - 10.6. Facebook: Our Facebook Page went past 600 likes at the beginning of September.
 - 10.7. Fencing: Belvin reported that the fencing had created a space for children's activities and reduced quality of life incidents behind the library.
 - 10.8. Judy Freeman: Ms. Freeman has donated another ten cartons of books.
 - 10.9. ObamaCare: The Institute for Museums and Libraries arranged for a webinar on open enrollment for the new Health Insurance Marketplaces.
 - 10.10. Orange Public Library: Belvin reported that The Essex County Directors agreed to tell the City of Orange that they will no longer consider them a reciprocal library by the end of the year if the library is not reopened.
 - 10.11. Security: Lt. J. T. Miller, Thomas Loughlin, Russell Marchetta, and Belvin met last week to discuss the security issue. Belvin reported that Loughlin had proposed a prospect that seemed very helpful and possible. The current security guard at the Water Treatment plant might be interested in working overtime at the library.*
 - 10.12. Volunteers: Hsien-min Chen arranged for seven Chinese high school students to volunteer here on Thursdays for twelve weeks. Their projects will include digitizing photographs, vital statistics records, collection inventory, and programming. A Rutgers teaching assistant will accompany the volunteers. This has been arranged through Elizabeth Beasley, Director, New Brunswick Summer & Special Projects for Rutgers Service Learning. The thirty-five gifted Chinese high school students are here for a yearlong bridge program to prepare them to apply to American universities for their undergraduate degrees. This program is conducted by

* Belvin has arranged a meeting with him for Tuesday, October 1. The man may be able to work three nights per week from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Rutgers in partnership with the new Princeton International School of Mathematics and Science (PRISMS), a sister campus to the students' home institution in Beijing.

Sarah Kennelly, an Intern from the Rutgers Public History program, is assisting Kim Adams. Sarah is processing the material that would constitute the library history collection.

Belvin and Adams worked with the Student Volunteer Council on Saturday, September 24. Adams had her group cleaning items from the archives. Belvin had his group helping with tree trimming, finishing cleaning the corner of Willow Grove Cemetery, and assisting his son in power washing the rear of the library garage in preparation of painting it.

Belvin will also be working with a group of Rutgers students on Saturday, September 28. If the weather continues to be nice, they will be working behind the library. A Rutgers Freshman will be doing eighteen hours of community service at the library for the Gloucester County Probation Department.

11. Unfinished Business.
12. Old Business.
13. New Business.
 - 13.1. New Jersey Library Trustees Association Annual Meeting: Celey reported on her attendance at the New Jersey Library Trustees Association Annual Meeting on September 21 at the Monroe Township Public Library. The theme was Building Bridges between Municipal Government and Library and the Keynote Speaker was the Honorable Wayne Smith, Mayor of the Township of Irvington. It included a tour of their MakerSpaces, Studio M which is dedicated to the discovery and implementation of popular and emergent technologies. This includes digital photography/video creation and modification, music creation, basic arduino programming, and 3D design and printing.
14. Other Matters.
 - 14.1. LMx Awards Reception, December 3, at the Pines manor in Edison.
15. Public Comment.
16. Adjournment.

Next Meeting October 23