

Newark Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

2025

Date: March 13, 2025

Board Member in Attendance: Keeley Kuperus, Andrea Windus, Becky Hauf, Chris Mizro, Deb Barry

Board Member(s) Excused: Joey Nicosia, Sue Oberdorf

Board Member late / left early (time):

In Attendance: Tanya Taylor, Jennifer Stell, Peter Blandino, Tye Villane

Absent: Bob Bendix (Village liaison)

Call to Order by Chris Mizro at 6:02 pm

Public Comment: No public attendance.

Secretary's Report: Review of minutes.

Motion to approve the secretary's report made by Becky and seconded by Andrea and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Review of abstract, budget and Treasurer's report.

- Regarding the budget, Tanya recommends for next year that she bring all the potential budget options (0% increase and up) in front of the board first in a board meeting. This will open discussions and allow all board members to express initial thoughts and direct the finance committee to focus on specific budget ranges and areas.
- Motion to acknowledge the financial transfers) completed by the Treasurer in the previous month, which is detailed in the Treasurer report, made by Keeley, seconded by Deb, passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve abstract made by Andrea, seconded by Becky, and passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve budget report made by Keeley, seconded by Andrea, and passed unanimously.

Director's Report:

- Construction Aid Update:
 - **Background:** When the Library approached the Village with the Construction Aid request (because the Village is the owner of the Library building), their response was that they did not want to pay or could not pay for the HVAC construction project the Library was proposing. Based on Board discussions, the reserve of finances available and the dire need for a new HVAC system, the library went forward with the

Construction Aid request by paying for the work, selecting the same contractor the Village uses.

- Current situation: Recently, Tanya was contacted by the Construction Aid facilitators asking for a revised the Village minor items, because they are the owners of the building. Upon request, the Village refused to revise their letter *without an agreement that the Village would not be held responsible for maintaining the HVAC system after 5 years (which is after the warranty runs out)*.
- At this point, both the Library and the Village lawyers are involved to attempt to resolve this dispute. Ultimately, the Library feels that the landlord (the Village) should continue to be responsible for building maintenance regardless of who paid for the HVAC construction project and feels paralyzed by the Village lease which was recently shortened to under 10 years which prohibits the library from pursuing Construction Aid without Village approval. With this arrangement, the library does not have the freedom to make improvements to the building space unless we take on overall building maintenance ourselves, which we do not have the budget for, and any Library improvement projects are obstructed by the Village's lack of participation.

- Adult & Youth Services Report

Committee Reports: No committee reports

Old Business: No old business

New Business

- Directors Evaluation Review – fantastic job Tanya!
- Motion made to approve the annual report that gets submitted to NYS made by Becky and seconded by Andrea.
- Board approved the Budget/Vote Information Sheet
- Tanya proposed adjusting monthly staff meetings to Fridays at 4:30pm (Nine Fridays per year). Right now, with Monday morning staff meetings, the library ends up spending more money on payroll.
 - Motion made to approve that the library will close 1.5hrs early 9 Fridays a year for staff Meetings made by Deb and seconded by Andrea, passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm made by Deb seconded by Andrea, passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Thursday April 10, 2025

Submitted by Keeley Kuperus