

# New Brunswick Free Public Library

60 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick NJ 08901

732-745-5271 Fax 732-846-0226

Minutes, Board of Trustees

November 14, 2012 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: Binde, Celey, Marchetta, Ortiz; Excused: Alfonso, Claffen, Diaz, Gutierrez; Staff: Belvin, Crittenden.
4. A quorum not being present, no actions were taken.
5. Director's Report: Belvin informed the Board members present about a number of activities and issues
  - 5.1. Behavior and Security. Alphonso, Claffen, Celey, Diaz, Ortiz, and Belvin met with Mayor Cahill on October 26 about their concerns about safety and security. They explained to the Mayor that while the staff can handle the problems presented by the homeless, they are feeling more challenged recently. Over the last couple of months, they have been dealing with more and more people who are either mentally ill or having other issues. They are also seeing more ex-offenders a few of whom are very aggressive and sexually suggestive. They are having more encounters with verbally abusive and physically aggressive patrons. The librarians do not want to call the police too often because they recognize that there is call fatigue and because they would prefer some way of handling this without calling the police. They want to be in control and not feel like potential victims. They want the other patrons to feel as secure as they feel when a police patrol comes through. The police response is generally good and Captain Sabo has been helpful but a problem is the time between when the patron because threatening or violent and the arrival of the police after the 911 call. That can be a terrifying two, five, or ten minutes depending on how tied up the patrol cars are. The Board had gone over with Dr. Belvin a wide range of potential solutions from off-duty-police officers to insisting that every patron supply identification on entering the building. Most of these potential solutions are impracticable, go against the very being of public libraries, or cost money that is not in the library budget. What the Board and staff want is an environment that discourages unacceptable behaviors without excluding people who need our services. Given the number of children who use the library and are not accompanied by adults, we are also concerned about what message disruptive adults send as well as the children's safety. The mayor responded that he had already begun working on a plan for a second tier of enforcement—people who were not police officers but who could function as security in the municipal courts and as park rangers. He would add the library's needs to his planning. He did not know about the budget impacts of this.
  - 5.2. Children's Specialized Hospital: The program is free developmental screening for ages 1-5. They would do one day in January 2013 and one in June 2013 with ½-hour time slots.
  - 5.3. Dorothy Dunlap Moore: Belvin reported Mrs. Dunlap-Moore had had surgery and will be out of work until at least January.
  - 5.4. LMx Awards Reception is Monday December 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Manor, Edison. Passed hors d'oeuvres, plus chafing dishes. \$25.00 per person. Marchetta, Celey, and Binde expressed an interest in attending.

- 5.5. Photo Release. Belvin noted he was working on modifying the Photography and Location Policy to add a Photo Release section and form.
- 5.6. Snapshot Day: Some of our patron's comments were: Female, 56, from New Brunswick wrote, "I love coming to the library – It's my delight every 2 weeks. I take out all kinds of books that I could never afford to buy for myself much less store in my home. Thank God for the public libraries of this country!"; Male, 28, from New Brunswick wrote, "I always get great service. The computer works very well."; Female, 50, from New Brunswick wrote, "Library is great."; Male, 18, from Piscataway wrote, "I am part of the TutoringPlus program that is held at the library. It is a great privilege to be able to help students with homework here."; Male, 53, from San Francisco, CA wrote, "I have been enjoying the exhibits here @ NBPL."; Female, 51, from New Brunswick wrote, "The art exhibits were very pleasing to the eye. Very different but very educational. Lets you see what and how others live. Thank you very much."; Anonymous comments: "The librarians are nice, friendly, and really helpful. When you are looking to read something new, they suggest books that turn out to be pretty interesting."; "Great and helpful staff – Thank you!"; "The reason why it's so important is because it's convenient, where people can meet and learn about things plus I love it here."; "Everyone doesn't always have an answer to questions whereas the library can answer all questions for you if you apply it to your research."; Comments from Children: "The thing (I) like about the library is the books. I can read any book I want. The programs are amazing I can do cool stuff there. The reading challenge is awesome I just need two books then I have to fill the form but the best part is I need to read 2 books and I wish it could be 5 books to read because I like to read."; "I like the library because it is a place you could learn and do your homework and you could also search for information here. They also have good programs."; "I like the librarians. I like the computers. I like the tutors."
- 5.7. Tutoring: Rutgers University TutoringPlus is supplying tutors for drop in tutoring for October and November, Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 5.8. Volunteers:
- 5.9. YAAR Meeting: This month's tour will be Fresh Grocer.
- 5.10. Young Adult Room: One issue that has come up from one of the contractors was whether the painting of the Young Adult area needed lead abatement. Title 40 Part 745 defines Child-occupied facility means a building, or portion of a building, constructed prior to 1978, visited regularly by the same child, under 6 years of age, on at least two different days within any week (Sunday through Saturday period), provided that each day's visit lasts at least 3 hours and the combined weekly visits last at least 6 hours, and the combined annual visits last at least 60 hours.