

# New Brunswick Free Public Library

60 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick NJ 08901

732-745-5271 Fax 732-846-0226

Minutes, Board of Trustees

October 24, 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, Claffen, Diaz; Excused: Alfonso, Marchetta, Ortiz; Absent: 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. Budget: Belvin reported that our LMxAC assessment would increase by approximately \$1,000 in 2013. The assessment is based on a formula of the number of terminal users (9 and fewer at \$2,850, over 9 at \$1,425 per user and 8¢ a circulation). The 2013 cost will be \$32,381. Next year, the MEA employees will be receiving a 2.25% increase. This results in an increase in salary expenditures of about \$24,750. With the increased use of the Henry Guest House, gas and electric costs in that building will increase by about \$1,500. This year the library took advantage of a carryover in State Aid. If all other expenses remain the same, our appropriation if we do not decrease staff will need to increase by approximately \$45,000 next year, a 3.8% increase.
  - 5.2. Equalized Value: The floor for public libraries is the ⅓ mill of the equalized value of the community—the owner of a property whose equalized assessment was \$100,000 pays \$33 for a public library in their town. The best news is that New Brunswick has chosen to fund the library at substantially more than the ⅓ mill level. The good news is that the equalized value for New Brunswick has only decreased over the last two years by 5.6%. This is good news in comparison to communities such as Plainfield 14.2%, Perth Amboy 12.8%, Edison 11.2%, and Long Branch 7%. The only community showing a two-year increase in Middlesex County is Plainsboro, 1.7%. The bad news is that New Brunswick's equalized value from 2010 to 2011 decreased 2.7%.
  - 5.3. Behavior and Security. Belvin reported there was tremendous response from the police. His concern is long-term in general and the gap between the occurrence of incidents and the ability of the police to respond. There was a continued discussion of the issues to be raised with Mayor on Friday, October 26.
  - 5.4. Children's Holidays Around the World: This program will be on Saturday, December 15.
  - 5.5. 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.
  - 5.6. eLibraryNJ Reminder about Library Card changes: Joye Crowe-Logan made a sign in Publisher to remind patrons about this. LMxAC has shared it with all its other members.
  - 5.7. Fencing. The State Historic Preservation Office has approved the plans. Bidding will be delayed until the start of the 2013 so that the work will be done in the best possible weather.
  - 5.8. Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art, and Society. This is a regional collaboration led by the Rutgers University Institute for Women and Art. This set of exhibits and programs has the participation of numerous area libraries and entities of Princeton University and Rutgers. There will be an exhibit in our Community Room until December 3 entitled Borderlands.

- 5.9. LMxAC: The LMxPRESS Mobile App has been implemented. The app offers features, including integration with eLibraryNJ.com for access to eBooks and eAudiobooks as well as BookLook Mobile that lets you scan an ISBN barcode to see if a local library owns the title.
- 5.10. Mason Gross Visual Arts Workshops for Teens and Children Cooperative Programs: The expense of these programs will be covered by Mason Gross. October 27 will be Día de los Muertos Catrinas Dolls. On November 17, there will be Native American Sand Painting. On March 16 there will be a Holi Color Celebration and on May 4, Dream Kite Making.
- 5.11. Middlesex County College New Brunswick Center Advisory Board. Belvin is a member of the Board and attended their October 4 meeting. He mentioned that the State Theater representative, Jennifer Cunha commented that they had been unable to obtain copies of an Australian children's book that a March performance was based on. Belvin put her in touch with Kim Adams who has a contact in Australia.
- 5.12. Sewer: Belvin reported a problem at the end of September when both sewerage pumps failed and because of a concurrent failure in a check valve, we had no bathrooms for public or staff for a number of hours. Public Works responded as fast as they could and by that evening, they had hooked up a bypass. Removable of sewerage in the basement and the necessary cleaning was done by ServPro. This cost \$3,600.
- 5.13. 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.
- 5.14. YAAR Meeting: This month's tour was of the Joseph Kohn Rehab Center.