

Board of Trustees  
Josephine Marchetta, Pres  
Beth Binde  
Mireya Alfonso  
Deborah Celey  
Carmen Diaz  
Nilda Gutierrez  
Russell Marchetta  
Karen Monus  
Benito Ortiz  
Cecilia Claffen (1922-2015), Emeritus

# New Brunswick Free Public Library

60 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick NJ 08901  
732-745-5271

## Minutes, Board of Trustees February 24, 2016 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, Celey, Gutierrez, J. Marchetta, Monus, Ortiz; Excused: Binde, Diaz, R. Marchetta; Staff: Belvin, Crittenden, Turner-Woods.
4. Approval of Excused Absences. Alfonso (Ortiz), unanimous.
5. Approval of Agenda. Celey (Ortiz), unanimous.
6. Approval of Minutes for January 27. Ortiz (Celey), unanimous.
7. Calendar of Board Meetings 2016. Ortiz (Celey), unanimous.
8. Approval of Bills. Celey (Ortiz), unanimous.
9. Committee Reports.
  - 9.1. Policy Committee.
    - 9.1.1. Behavior Policy: Clarification of prohibition of eating and drinking in the library: Currently reads, "5. The consumption of food or beverages in areas of the Library open to the public except by recognized users of the meeting rooms is prohibited." A suggested addition would be: "Any food or beverages in the possession of patrons inside the library (with the exception of the meeting room) must be kept unopened in spill-proof containers or sealed packages, and inside bags, or safely placed on the floor." Approved Alfonso (Monus), unanimous.
  - 9.2. Finance Committee. Belvin has not yet been notified of the date of the Budget Hearing.
10. Friends' Liaison: The Friends funded a renewal of the Film Rights for \$476. They are considering supporting a series of programs on religions.
11. Staff Presentation. Chelsea Woods on Tween services. Kim Adams' presentation on the Archives will be April 27.
12. Director's Report.
  - 12.1. Black History Month: The New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee program at the library on February 21 was attended by about 60 people. The keynote speaker was Professor Deborah Gray White, the Chair of the Committee on Enslaved and Disenfranchised Populations in Rutgers History. Panelists include Reginald Johnson, President of the Metuchen-Edison NAACP; Lewis Dixon; Jarret Drake of Princeton University; Mekala Audain of The College of New Jersey; and Professor Muhammad Abdul Rahman. A high point was Dr. White's summary of the post Civil War experience. An exhibit, Highlights of the New Brunswick African American Experience from the Library Collections, curated by Marilyn Herod, will be available for viewing until February 27.
  - 12.2. Children's: Karen Stuppi is applying for a grant from Better World Books to establish a Read With Your Baby program in coordination with the Eric B. Chandler Health Center. This would provide parents of newborns with a bag of items, including a bilingual board book, bookmark, library card application, as well as flyers providing information about the benefits of reading to one's baby.

- 12.3. Chinese New Year: The Chinese New Year celebration will be on February 28 in cooperation with the Confucius Institute of Rutgers University.
- 12.4. Copier: The library's primary staff copier, which also serves as a network print station, has reached the end of its service life. Ortega was able to negotiate excellent terms for the purchase of a 45 copy per minute replacement.
- 12.5. CPR Training: Twenty-one staff attended the Staff Training Day on February 12. The trainers from RWJUH covered both CPR and basic health emergencies. Belvin has added a request in the library's capital budget for three stations.
- 12.6. Curiosity Creates: The rollout of the library's magazine, currently, has four members attending the in-library magazine meetings, and six more contributors through Greater Brunswick Charter School's enrichment cluster spring program. The students have tackled interviewing, as well as creative brainstorming and graphic design for material to include in the magazine. Using the laptop and PagePlus publishing and design software purchased with the grant, the first issue is slated for print at the end of March 2016. The theme is "Transition," and will include a number of poems, short memories, serialized stories, how-to & advice columns, and more relating to this topic.
- 12.7. Facebook: Our page now has over a thousand likes.
- 12.8. Historical Association: Belvin is now the Secretary of the New Brunswick Historical Association.
- 12.9. Holi Festival: The Holi Festival will be Sunday, April 9.
- 12.10. Homeless: On three nights when a Code Blue was declared, the Henry Guest House was used an overnight shelter. There were between seven and nine people each night.
- 12.11. Judy Freeman: Rosy Wagner picked up another fifteen cartons of review books from Mrs. Freeman.
- 12.12. New Brunswick Office of Innovation: Belvin met with Brendan Kaplan of the New Brunswick Office of Innovation. Kaplan has a number of interesting ideas including civic information kiosks.
- 12.13. New Start Career Network: On February 16, Belvin represented the New Jersey Library Association at an event at the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development held by the New Start Career Network with US Secretary of Labor Tom Perez as the convener.
- 12.14. Per Capita State Aid: It is now very unlikely that there will be any additional Per Capita State Aid since 95% of all the growth in the budget is for pensions, government worker health benefits, and debt service.
- 12.15. Photography: The ninth annual Photography Contest with the theme of *Freedom: Capture Your World* has started. Photographs to be submitted must be taken by May 14. Photographs entered in the contest will be displayed at the New Brunswick Cultural Center in the Crossroads Theatre, the George Street Playhouse, and the library. The opening reception will be June 10. Three workshops will accompany the contest.
- 12.16. Poetry: The eighteenth annual Poetry Month Celebration Reading will be April 25. The deadline for submissions is March 18.
- 12.17. Reference: One interesting question last month was about the Wright Martin manufacturing plant on Jersey Avenue. The man inquiring is a former New Brunswick resident and is with Aviation Week. The building is currently an innovation center at 100 Jersey Avenue; however, its origins are from before World War I when it was Simplex Motors. During the war, Wright Martin produced engines for military aircraft. In June of 1919, plans were underway to sell the facility to International Motors. By 1922, the facility had become a plant for International Motors. According to the Home News August 31, 1922, there were several employees at the Wright Martin facility near Patterson who still lived in New Brunswick and who commuted daily. After that, the building became a Mack Truck factory. A development and a section of

streets in New Brunswick has a connection with the factory -- Wright Place, Lufberry Ave, Mitchell Ave, Curtis Place, etc. The United States Housing Company was acquiring property for this in the fall of 1918 and by 1919 the section was called Lincoln Gardens.

- 12.18. Rutgers Colloquium: On February 18, Belvin served as a reactor to a panel presentation, *Radical Redesign of Library Spaces: Meeting the Changing Needs of our Public, Rethinking Space: The Princeton Public Library Story*, part of the Rutgers MI Colloquia series. Belvin commented that one of the challenges he saw in applying some of the concepts to New Brunswick was that unlike some communities, many of our potential patrons do not already know the services that the library could render or do not have the vocabulary to express themselves in convincing ways.
- 12.19. Rutgers Day: The library will have at table at Rutgers Day, April 30. The very successful button maker project will be demonstrated.
- 12.20. Shutters: The architect has informed Belvin that installation of the shutters on the Henry Guest House will begin in about six weeks. They will either be a neutral brown or match the existing trim color.
- 12.21. Taxes: Volunteers from Beta Alpha Psi, the Accounting and Finance Honors Society at Rutgers, will help taxpayers file their taxes online on Fridays and Saturdays through April 9.
- 12.22. Video Projector: The library has had a video projector and sound system installed in the Carl T. Valenti Community Room.
- 12.23. Young Adult: Rosy Wagner has taken a position as Coordinator of Young Adult Services for the Burlington County Public library, an eight-branch system. Belvin has started the search for her replacement.
13. Unfinished Business.
14. Old Business.
15. New Business.
16. Other Matters.
  - 16.1. NJLA Conference: The annual NJLA Conference will be May 16 to May 18 at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City.
17. Public Comment.
18. Adjournment. Alfonso (Ortiz), unanimous.

**Next Meeting March 23**