

**ELMWOOD PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 18, 2022**

**OPEN**

Kathleen Policano opened the public meeting at 6:05pm in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meeting Act.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Kathleen Policano, Geraldine Mola, Stacy Mola, Christine Grezlak, Mayor Coletti

Absent: Anthony Iachetti, Daniela Buscio

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kathleen Policano made a motion to approve the March 21, 2022 minutes.

First: Geri Mola

Second: Stacy Mola

Approved: Kathleen Policano, Geraldine Mola, Stacy Mola, Christine Grezlak, Mayor Coletti

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Kathleen Policano called for a motion to approve the Trial Balance and Bill's List for March 2022

First: Christine Grezlak

Second: Stacy Mola

Approved: Kathleen Policano, Geraldine Mola, Stacy Mola, Christine Grezlak, Mayor Coletti

**OTHER REPORTS**

Kathleen Policano called for a motion to approve the Director's Reports, the Reference Reports, the Circulation Reports and the Programs Reports for March 2022

First: Geri Mola

Second: Stacy Mola

Approved: Kathleen Policano, Geraldine Mola, Stacy Mola, Christine Grezlak, Mayor Coletti

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. **Resolution and vote: 2022 Budget:** The board discussed the budget and Kathleen Policano called for a motion to table the 2022 budget until the May 2022 Board Meeting.  
First: Geri Mola  
Second: Christine Grezlak  
Approved: Kathleen Policano, Geraldine Mola, Stacy Mola, Christine Grezlak, Mayor Coletti
2. **Resolution and vote: Unattended Child Policy:** The board discussed the unattended child policy and Kathleen Policano called for a motion to table the Unattended Child Policy until the May 2022 Board Meeting.  
First: Stacy Mola  
Second: Geri Mola  
Approved: Kathleen Policano, Geraldine Mola, Stacy Mola, Christine Grezlak, Mayor Coletti

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Kathleen Policano asked about the Grand Opening: What are we planning to do, when are we planning to do it and asked Jennifer if Anthony Iachetti (absent from the meeting) had given a date in reference to her interest in using the high school's marching band for the event. Geri asked what they were going to be doing, stating how some prior suggestions sounded like a carnival. In reference to a suggested May date for the event, Mayor Colletti suggested that after the past few tough years, that more time should be taken in planning for the event to make it classy, and recommended that a committee be formed to discuss the opening and present their ideas at the May meeting. Mayor Coletti nominated Geri Mola to head the committee based on her prior success of the 75th and 100th anniversary events for the town. Kathleen Policano asked if anyone else wanted to volunteer to be part of the committee and it was stated that the board as a whole would participate and Geri Mola would chair the committee. The prior suggested date for the beginning of May was not suitable for several reasons and Mayor Coletti suggested that September would suit better to get the best results. It was suggested that the event be termed a "dedication" as opposed to a "grand opening" since the library had already opened. Kathleen Policano stated that the event would have to be very well publicized since it would essentially be the library's hard opening. If September is the date of the opening, since schools are back, it would be a good time for classes to visit to learn how to use the public library. Geri Mola suggested finding the names and locations of past board members to involve in the event as well as dignitaries. Kathleen Policano suggested having someone who is not on the library board be on the committee and asked Jean Freitag, who agreed.

It was asked how the traffic in the library has been and Jennifer Cullen said it has been good, story time and craft attendance was steady and teens were also using the library in their section. A town resident, Mr. Nurfli, sent in a thank you note for the library board stating how the library was beautiful and he thanked people for making it so.

A follow up question was asked about the windows up front that had condensation between the panes and the building fund would take care of that.

Geri Mola stated that she has been working on the CAPES request for the history/archive materials and will be submitting it soon. Geri explained what the CAPES study is, what it involves and what it would mean for the library.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kathleen Policano opened up the meeting to public comments.

Jeff Freitag stated that using Anthony Iachetti would be a good resource on how to handle the children (unattended child policy). Mr Freitag had questions about the budget and also what would be done with a surplus? Mr. Freitag had also asked about the condensation on the two front windows and landscaping, which the board also discussed.

RJ Garcia asked how much the library received from the Bond Act (Library Construction Bond Act) and was told that Elmwood Park was not one of the towns receiving that funding this year but that we do receive state aid every year. Kathleen Policano stated that we have the capital fund and the building fund for the library which will be used to keep the library in good condition.

Mr. Garcia asked if the library would be doing anything on STEM/STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) and Jennifer Cullen stated that the staff in charge of programming were notified of STEM/STEAM programming questions.

Jean Freitag said she believes the dedication/grand opening should be held sooner rather than later, and suggested that there be an “open house” and gear it towards children in a way to encourage them to come get library cards and said she would be willing to help out. With school classes coming, buses may be a problem. Kathleen Policano suggested that the “dedication” could happen earlier in the day with the “open house” happening afterwards.

Mr. Garcia pointed out that this library actually has direct access to public transportation, with two NJ transit bus routes being very close by.

Geri Mola asked when the best time for committee members to meet about the dedication would be, and the best way to go about it was discussed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Kathleen Policano called for adjournment: Meeting adjourned 7:10pm