

MINUTES

GARFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Wednesday

January 25, 2023

The regular meeting of Wednesday, January 25, 2023 was called to order at 7:00 PM by President, Raymond Rivas.

1. President Raymond Rivas asked for the Roll Call:

Present:

President, Raymond Rivas

Vice President Ruth Springer

Treasurer Suny Mellawa

Secretary Michael Kupec, Jr.

Alternate for Superintendent Anna Sciacca, Marie Marx (via Zoom)

Alternate for Mayor Richard Rigoglioso, Christopher Braitsch (via Zoom,  
but cannot vote)

Director, Mary Jo Jennings

Absent:

Superintendent of Schools, Anna Sciacca

Mayor, [Richard Rigoglioso](#)

2. President, Raymond Rivas read the following statement:

- Pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1976, adequate written notice of this meeting, together with the agenda of this meeting is to be:
- permanently posted on the Board's officially designated public bulletin board, located in the Garfield Public Library lobby, 500 Midland Avenue, in the City of Garfield
- delivered to the Passaic Herald News, and the Community News, newspapers circulating in the City of Garfield,

- filed with the City Clerk of the City of Garfield; and
- mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice, pursuant
- to Section 14 of Chapter 231, Laws of 1976.

Due to the current COVID-19 quarantine, notice of this meeting was posted electronically on Facebook, and the Garfield Free Public Library webpage.

3. Motion made by Suny Mellawa to accept the minutes and seconded by Raymond Rivas.

Motion passed.

4. Suny Mellawa questioned the layout of the Treasurer's Report. (Michael Kupec, Jr. volunteered to review with our bookkeeper and Mary Jo Jennings to discuss the layout.)
5. Mary J Jennings reported that there were no new communications to report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

6. Ruth Springer presented an update on the Centennial Gala - noting that packages had been mailed to the honorees as well as ad contracts to local businesses and organizations.
7. Ruth Springer reminded the board of our upcoming Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's.
8. No Foundation Report at this time.
9. Galentine Tea Party - Mary Jo Jennings reported that the Friends Group has finalized planning of the Galentine Tea Party scheduled for February 12th from 2:00-4:00pm. Ticket price \$35.
10. Black History Committee - Mary Jo Jennings noted that the library is hosting the Black History Committee who are having a program on February 25th from 6:00-8:00pm.
11. Bank Signatory Paperwork - Mary Jo Jennings reported that Spencers Bank signatory paperwork was underway.

## NEW BUSINESS

12. Suny Mellawa offered and Donna Miller seconded the following resolution:

### **GPL 2023 - 01.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Director Mary Jo Jennings be the purchasing agent for the Garfield Free Public Library, with a threshold max of \$2600.00 for the 2023 calendar year.

Resolution was unanimously adopted.

13. Budget - Per Mary Jo Jennings, the budget will go up to \$1 million once the budget is approved.

14. Strategic Plan - [Mary Jo Jennings](#) reminded the board that we are obligated to revisit the strategic plan every 3 years ...as well as the bylaws.

15. Primary Goal - Raymond Rivas noted that our focus needs to be on “Community Building”.

Garfield is ethnically diverse and so we need to identify population pockets that we have not yet recognized and do something to celebrate their heritage. (Examples: Albanians, Macedonians, Hungarians and those of various Eastern European dissents.) Thomas Derr suggested an evening of Albanian poetry reading. He went on to suggest that we set-up an outdoor cafe on the patio (perhaps with assistance from “Boilermaker Brew”...something to do during the warmer months. Michael Kupec, Jr. volunteered to get contact information for leaders of the Albanian and Hungarian communities. The discussion continued for a while discussing how we can get GMS and GHS students more involved at the library...including an art auction/art show. (Doing so would also help them earn their required community service hours.)

We want to continue to provide awesome events to the community! (Perhaps including a drive to help the homeless of the community. Also resume writing workshops.)

16. [Mary Jo Jennings](#) reminded us, in our role as trustees, to sign up for New Jersey Library

Trustee Association training (available on their website).

17. [Mary Jo Jennings](#) reported that she has reviewed the bylaws and the Trustees need to review for further changes..

18. Suny Mellawa made the following motion and Michael Kupec, Jr. seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Meeting of the Garfield Free Public Library Board of Trustees was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Resolution was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kupec, Jr.  
Trustee Secretary