

**DEER PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 7:00pm

**MINUTES**

Present: Justin Belkin, President  
John Gagliano, Vice President  
Mike Gonzalez, Secretary  
Anne Cognato, Trustee  
Susan Gaskin, Trustee

Richard Rapecis, Library Director  
Susan Zapata, Business Manager

Thomas M. Volz, Esq., Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC

Kathy Jokubiel, Community Member  
Madeline McCabe, Community Member  
Margie Russo, Community Member

**CALL TO ORDER**

Justin Belkin called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:03pm.

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:15pm.

**PUBLIC  
EXPRESSION**

Community members, the Library Director and the Board discussed policies regarding program registration, including spaces for patrons to wait during inclement weather, the desire for more programs, and staggered registration. The Board directed the next library newsletter to include language regarding registration limits.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Anne Cognato, seconded by John Gagliano, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2024.

**FINANCIAL  
MATTERS**

Upon a motion by Anne Cognato, seconded by Mike Gonzalez, the Board approved the current bills and Treasurer's Reports.

**PERSONNEL  
MATTERS**

The Director shared a resignation letter from part-time guard Rich Randone.

The Director shared a resignation letter from part-time Adult Reference librarian Laurel Scalera.

Upon a motion by Mike Gonzalez, seconded by John Gagliano, the Board approved the hiring of Ronald J. Valenti, Jr., as a part-time Guard.

Upon a motion by John Gagliano, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved the hiring of Christa Needrith and Kenneth B. Godberson as full-time Librarian Is in the Adult Reference Department.

Upon a motion by John Gagliano, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved canvassing for another Librarian I position for the Adult Reference Department.

**BUSINESS  
MATTERS**

The Board and Director discussed a revised library materials fines policy. The Board declined to approve same.

Upon a motion by John Gagliano, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved the attendance of 3 staff members at the annual American Library Association Conference in San Diego, CA in June and July 2024. Trustee Susan Gaskin dissented. Prior approval for trustee John Gagliano to attend was noted.

The purchase of new community room chairs was discussed. Purchase of desks for computer work stations; and chairs for the Children's Room was discussed. Tabled.

Upon a motion by John Gagliano, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved a contract with Commpath.

Upon a motion by John Gagliano, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved adding the consideration of a contract with Baldessari & Coster LLP to the agenda.

Upon a motion by John Gagliano, seconded by Anne Cognato, the Board approved a contract with Baldessari & Coster LLP.

**BUILDING  
MATTERS**

The Director provided updates regarding an ongoing HVAC and roof replacement project, including some leaks and concrete work being addressed.

The Director and Board discussed interior building renovations.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Department library usage statistics were presented.

**DATE OF NEXT  
MEETING**

The Board agreed to Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00pm for the next monthly Board meeting.

**MEETING  
ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Anne Cognato, seconded by John Gagliano, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zapata  
Business Manager