

South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes September 9, 2025

Topic	Discussion	Outcome/To Do
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Nagel-Smiley at 6:00 pm. President Nagel-Smiley announced that the meeting was held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and as such, proper notice of the meeting was published in the official newspapers, The Observer, The Courier-News and The Home News Tribune.	
Roll Call	Trustees Present: Cheryl Nagel-Smiley, President; Annemarie Stoeckel, Treasurer; Ray Rusnak, Mayor's Rep; Bill Seesselberg, School Rep; Robert A. Bengivenga; Carol Christatos; Stephanie Wolak Excused Absent: Melissa Katsingris, Vice President/Secretary; Janine Kupcho;	
Of Note	Cheryl noted that Bill's birthday is coming up on Sept. 16th.	
Approval of Minutes	Cheryl called for a motion. Bob motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Carol seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Payment of Vouchers	Cheryl reviewed the vouchers (checks #16393 - #16440 totaling \$56,362.02) and called for a motion. Annemarie motioned to accept the voucher payments. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Expense Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Bill motioned to accept the report. Carol seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Cash Receipts Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Annemarie motioned to accept the report. Stephanie seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Statistical Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Bob motioned to accept the report. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Director's Report	Linda reviewed her report. Cheryl called for a motion. Carol motioned to accept the report. Stephanie seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Finance and Budget/ Treasurer's Report	Annemarie presented the bank statement.	The bank statement was accepted.

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Buildings and Grounds Report	1) Bob reported on the investigation into why water was coming into the building near where doors used to be by the ramp/platform. Cheryl asked how it will be fixed, and Bob replied that it depends on how it was built and that he just received the plan/report. 2) Bob reported that the new valve that was installed is working properly. 3) Bob asked to be notified when a building/grounds repair is needed.	
Policy Report	Cheryl noted that the committee met and Janine will present information at the October meeting.	
Personnel Committee Report	Cheryl noted that a part time bilingual Spanish librarian will only return as a substitute after having her baby (she is 7 months pregnant), so Linda is advertising to find a replacement.	
Technology Committee Report	Annemarie noted that the committee met and she will present information at the October meeting.	
Capital Projects Committee	1) Ray noted that the sprinkler system waterlines failing causing water to leak onto Plainfield Ave issue will be paid by the municipality. 2) Ray shared that the electricity costs for the outdoor Christmas lights may be cost prohibitive, and this should be discussed at the October meeting. Since Bob will miss the October meeting, he shared that he thinks the money for the Christmas lights could be better spent elsewhere. 3) Cheryl asked Stephanie about the Charlie Cart (slated for Capital Projects), and Stephanie replied that she has not had a chance to look at it yet.	
Community Relations Committee	Stephanie asked for people to let her know if they want to help with Fall Festival on October 11th, 11 am - 2 pm. Stephanie thanked Linda for providing superhero coloring pages at the Labor Day Parade.	
Mayor's Alternate Report	Ray stated that there are no updates at this time.	
Schools Report	Bill stated that schools are open. Linda noted that Heather is connecting with Noreen about donated back packs for children in need. Stephanie mentioned a new school librarian was hired, Kim. Annemarie shared that the steps Kim is taking (removing old books with outdated/ inaccurate information) are to make the school libraries better and make books easier for students to find.	

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Board President's Report	1) Cheryl attended the Policy and IT Meetings. 2) Cheryl was a judge at the Labor Day parade. 3) Cheryl attended "A Taste of Korea" with Stephanie. They both described how they enjoyed learning about Korea's history, food and metals production. They said they learned a lot. 4) Cheryl plans to attend: • Trivia Night • Wood Flower Workshop • Meal Planning Workshop • Fall Festival • Spanish Heritage Event • Friend's Book Sale	
Old Business	There was no Old Business to discuss.	
Public Comments	There was no Public Comments.	
New Business	There was no New Business to discuss.	
Trustees Remarks	Ray stated he had no remarks at this time. Annemarie stated she is happy summer reading went so well. Stephanie stated that all is good. Bob shared that the John Basilone parade will be held in Raritan on September 21st at 1 pm. Bob also mentioned the 9/11 Ceremony that will be held at the Middle School. Bob asked, "What New York City building has the most stories?" Cheryl answered, "The Library." Carol asked about Book Sale Prep, and Cheryl told her that Stephanie Bonanno will email a schedule once she knows everyone's availability. Carol said she is looking forward to the upcoming Mind Reader event at the Senior Center. Carol said she enjoyed the Labor Day parade but was disappointed there was not enough interest for the Friends to walk in the parade but hopes that maybe next year more people will be interested. Bill said that all was quiet with schools open. He shared that the new metal detectors being used went smoother than expected. Cheryl shared her experiences with metal detectors from when she was a teacher. Cheryl stated that she is glad summer reading went so well. She shared that she loves the library programs like "A Taste of Korea" and "Wood Flowers".	

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Trustees Remarks, continued	Cheryl mentioned what is on this month's Diversity Events Calendar: • Month-long Observances: • Hispanic Heritage Month: Recognizes the history and achievements of Hispanic/Latino Americans • National Guide Dog Month: Raises awareness in support of guide dog schools across the US • Suicide Prevention Month: Raises awareness for those lost to suicide and those suffering from mental illnesses • September 1: Labor Day - Celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers • September 4: Milad at-Nabi Islamic Prophet's birthday • September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day - Raises awareness about suicide prevention • September 11: Patriot Day - Remembers the victims of the September 11 attacks on the United States • September 15: World Afro Day - Celebrates the cultural significance of Afro hair • September 16: Mexican Independence Day - Celebrates the independence of Mexico • September 18: International Equal Pay Day - Promotes the fight for equal pay for equal work • September 20: HeForShe Movement Anniversary - A global solidarity effort to promote gender equality • September 23: Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year • September 23: International Day of Sign Languages - Celebrates sign languages and their importance for deaf communities • September 27: National Native American Day - A way of honoring those who have been a part of the American tradition even before the US nation came into being	
Adjournment	Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to adjourn. Ray seconded the motion.	Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.