

South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes March 10, 2026

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 Courier-News and The Home News Tribune, and South Plainfield TapInto.	
Roll Call	Trustees Present: Cheryl Nagel-Smiley, President; Annemarie Stoeckel, Treasurer; Joe Wolak for Mayor Matthew Anesh; Robert Goman, School Rep; Carol Christatos; Janine Kupcho; Stephanie Wolak; Excused Absent: Melissa Katsingris, Vice President/Secretary; Robert A. Bengivenga (Bob)	
Of Note	Cheryl noted that Robert Goman's birthday was a couple of days ago.	
Approval of Minutes	Cheryl called for a motion. Carol motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting's open session. Stephanie seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously with Annemarie abstaining.
Payment of Vouchers	Cheryl reviewed the vouchers (checks #16687 - # 16731 totaling \$157,778.77) and called for a motion. Annemarie motioned to accept the voucher payments. Stephanie seconded the motion. Linda mentioned that the amount was \$100,000 above usual due to the annual pensions appropriation.	Motion carried unanimously.
Expense Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Janine 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. Stephanie motioned to accept the report. Annemarie seconded the motion. Linda prepared a two sided report that shows the current month on one side and the same month in the previous year on the other side, as per Matt's request. 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. Janine seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.

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Committee Assignments	Cheryl explained how committees do research and then make recommendations to the Board for decisions. Cheryl reviewed what each committee does. There were no questions.	
Finance and Budget/ Treasurer's Report	Annemarie presented the bank statement.	The bank statement was accepted.
Buildings and Grounds	<p>Cheryl stated that the Committee has not had a chance to meet, and mentioned the items that need attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl asked Joe to talk to Matt about the possibilities for storing the Library's Christmas tree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob wants to look into getting a variance to allow an additional shed be installed for storage (location to be determined hopefully next to the existing shed). • Is there any room on other Borough property that could be used? • Another possibility is renting a storage space. • Cheryl brought up a safety concern and asked Joe to talk to Matt about it. The pavement between the library entrance and Borough Hall is pitted and wires are sticking up in various spots. 	
Policy Report	Janine stated that there were no updates.	
Personnel Committee Report	Cheryl stated that a part time employee will become a substitute due to his new work schedule (which is not as flexible as it used to be).	
Technology Committee Report	Annemarie stated that there were no updates.	
Capital Projects Committee	<p>Cheryl stated that the short and long term plans are half of what was budgeted for and everything is where it was last year.</p> <p>Stephanie stated that plans for the lounge will be made in the future.</p> <p>Linda stated that they are looking to replace large tables with smaller ones to give patrons more flexible seating options.</p> <p>Stephanie mentioned a need for "No left turn", "No right turn" and/or "Do not enter" signs to keep drivers from turning into the one way exit the wrong way. Joe stated he will bring this up in the next Borough Traffic and Safety Meeting.</p>	
Community Relations Committee	Stephanie stated that there were no updates.	
Mayor's Report	Joe stated that he had no updates..	

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Schools Rep Report	<p>Robert stated that he had no updates.</p> <p>Cheryl asked if the schools are doing anything for the 100 Year Celebration, and Stephanie replied that the Borough has an essay and an art project that students will be invited to participate in.</p> <p>Cheryl wanted to know if the schools were doing anything specific as other community groups are doing.</p> <p>Cheryl mentioned that she and Carol worked at the Kennedy School book fair.</p>	
Board President's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheryl shared that she attended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trivia Night • Chinese Calligraphy (twice) • Madam C. J. Walker presentation • Friends Meeting • Capital Projects Committee Meeting • Herb Garden Workshop 2. Cheryl shared that she will participate in the Borough Hall Meeting Historical reenactment. Joe will also participate. 3. Cheryl distributed her monthly report on Trustee's attendance and professional development accomplished by each Trustee. Cheryl and Carol mentioned some training options. 	
Old Business	<p>There was no Old Business to discuss.</p>	
Public Comments	<p>Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to open Public Comment. Annemarie seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ken mentioned that some Historical Society members will also participate in the Borough Hall Meeting Historical reenactment.</p> <p>Ken shared that he still is working with Piscataway TV on the South Plainfield history video segments for the 100 Year Celebration and asked Joe to tell Matt that they can include the Borough's QR code in the video credits (in answer to his question from last week).</p> <p>Lisa reviewed what was discussed at the Friends meeting in January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother Daughter Tea, renamed Family Social Tea • Jewelry Sale - will advertise to the public that the Friends are accepting donations of jewelry and gently used pocketbooks. • Friends are working on a new logo in rectangular and square formats. • Cheryl asked Linda how the Babysitting class was, and Linda replied that it went well. 	<p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
New Business	<p>Cheryl stated that there was no new business.</p>	

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Public Comments	Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to close Public Comment. Annemarie seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Trustees Remarks	<p>Janine borrowed the book “No More Chairs” and read it to her class. It sparked good conversations. Janine said thank you for letting her connect to the meeting virtually.</p> <p>Stephanie wished everyone a happy Easter and Robert a happy birthday. Robert did not have any further remarks.</p> <p>Annemarie stated that she is glad that 1st graders are still coming to the Library and that her grandson is one of them.</p> <p>Carol mentioned professional development options and offered to forward information to others about them. Carol wished Robert a happy birthday.</p> <p>Joe stated that he found it interesting to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Cheryl wished everyone a happy Easter and Passover and Robert a happy birthday.</p> <p>Cheryl mentioned what is on this month’s Diversity Events Calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month-long Observances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: March is developmental disabilities awareness month celebrated annually since 1987 when President Reagan fostered inclusion and encouraged opportunities for this population. In 1990 President Bush signed the American disabilities act. • Irish American Heritage Month: March was officially made in 1991 by Congress as Irish American culture and history to coincide with St. Patrick’s Day March 17 • Women’s History Month: started as one day in Santa Rosa, California 1978. In 1980 it was made by the National Women’s History Alliance into Women’s History Week. In 1987 Congress declared March as Women’s History Month corresponding with International Women’s Day March 8. • March 1 Zero Discrimination Day • March 2-3 Purim Jewish commemorates the saving of the Jewish people recounted in the Book of Esther • March 3 -4 Holi Hindu festival of colors • March 3 Makha Bucha Day Buddhist celebrates the full moon on the third month 	

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Trustees Remarks, continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 8 International Women's Day • March 10 Harriet Tubman's birthday • March 13 National K9 Veterans Day • March 15 – UN: International Day to Combat Islamophobia • March 17 St. Patrick's Day • March 20-22 Eid al Fitr Muslim (breaking of the fast) March 21 Nowruz Persian (spring equinox -new year) • March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination • March 22 World Water Day • March 24 International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victim • March 25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade • March 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility 	
Adjournment	Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to adjourn. Carol seconded the motion.	Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.