

**RIDGEFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2024**

The meeting of the Ridgefield Free Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Catherine Suarez. President Catherine Suarez read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

ATTENDANCE

In attendance were Ms. Daisy Jimenez, Ms. Josephine Mendoza, Ms. Debbie Kontolios, Ms. Jin Kye, Mr. Mike Said, President Catherine Suarez, and Director Jane Forte. Ms. Maria Krum joined at 7:03 pm.

President Catherine Suarez swore in the Mayor's Alternate, Ms. Maria Krum. At the next meeting President Catherine Suarez will swear in Trustee Ms. Bonnie Ilch and the Superintendent's Alternate, Ms. Josephine Mendoza.

A copy of the December 19, 2023, minutes was reviewed by the Board. Upon a motion made by Ms. Kontolios, and seconded by Ms. Mendoza, the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Reports covering December 31, 2023, read by Ms. Kontolios. A motion to accept the report was made by Ms. Kye and seconded by Mr. Said. The motion was carried unanimously.

VENDOR SHEET

The Vendor Sheet dated December 31, 2023, was examined and discussed. A motion to accept the Vendor Sheet was made by Ms. Krum and seconded by Ms. Kontolios. President Suarez took a roll call vote. The motion was carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S & FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

The January Director's report was read by Ms. Forte. The library started the new year with several programs for adults and children. The tween/teen programs are planned through April. The children's programs which were held during the holiday break after Christmas were outstanding with a record number of attendees. Many children and their parents or caregivers had to watch from the hallway. The library had over 100 attendees for Jamie Novak's program on January 9th. The six-week crochet class started on January 11th. Monthly Chair Yoga started on January 13th. Spanish conversation classes and Easy English conversation classes resumed at the beginning of the month. On January 16 and 17, the library hosted a seminar on Social Security benefits. The weather kept some people away on the 16th, but the 17th was well attended. A Saturday session is planned for the 27th to make up for the low attendance on the 16th. The library is finalizing the plans for a six-week chess class for adults and older teens starting February 26. Latin dance classes start March 7. On March 27, there will be an AI program for adults and high school students. Yilin Sheng and Jane Forte will be meeting with the RMHS Capstone Project teachers on January 31 to discuss plans for the next school year. Some maintenance was done on the building, including fire extinguishers replaced, routine pest control spraying, and some work on the

women's restroom toilets. DPW inspected the roof for any debris or blockages on January 9 ahead of the sleet and high winds. Some water was in the basement on January 10; no damage was done and DPW was called to check on the leak.

The Friends of the Library met on January 17 for free Bingo with prizes. Membership is open for 2024. Jane has the forms and a list of programs on the table. The Book Club will meet on February 15. The next regular Friends meeting is February 21 and will include a dedication of the new display cases in memory of Ron Williams. All are welcome.

ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICERS / 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Renomination of Ms. Suarez as the Board President has been accepted as well as the Vice President Ms. Mendoza, Treasurer Ms. Kontolios, and Ms. Kye as the Secretary.
- Committee Assignments were all assigned and will be updated to show new committee members.
- RPL Board of Trustees contact list 2024 updates on removal of Craig Dorsett as the library Liaison, will update once a new member is confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Friends of the Ridgefield Library Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, February 21 at 1:00pm
- Become a Friend of the Ridgefield Library form and list of programs and meeting dates available
- January 2024 Adult Library Program flyer
- January 2024 Children's Event Program flyer
- Teen Events Flyer

OLD BUSINESS (Will revisit this next month)

- Outreach to Senior Citizens Organization
- Library programs added to Recreation flyer
- Cap Stone project
- Letter to school regarding high school volunteers

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Krum made the motion to approve the proposed budget including transferring \$40K to the Library's Capital Improvement account and Mr. Said seconded the motion. President Suarez took a roll call vote. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Jane complimented Margot's work on the financial reports and we all thanked Margot for her excellent job and hard work.
- Regarding contact with County Executive Jim Tedesco, we did receive correspondence somewhat hopeful, but will have to work on this to get a clearer understanding about free internet access.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Borough Council Library Liaison Chairwoman Ms. Joanna Leigh Congalton-Hali and Councilman Mr. Jim Kontolios were present. Chairwoman Joanna thanked the library for her 2nd grader who had a phenomenal trip to the library. Also recommended the schools to have in hand paper ready to take home for the kids to sign up for a library card before school gets out for the summer.

Councilman Mr. Jim Kontolios updated us on the roofing situation. It will be up for approval at the Borough meetings in February. It will cost \$333,333 for the new roof, inside restoration and replacement.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Kontolios and seconded by Ms. Jimenez. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jin Kye