

**April 30, 2022**  
**Joint Free Public Library**  
**Of Morristown and Morris Township**  
**Board of Trustees**

The annual retreat meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township was called to order at 9:40 AM.

Representing Morristown were: Nancy Bangiola, President; Patricia Ard, Secretary, and Lisa Price

Representing Morris Township were: Don Kiel, Vice President; Geoff Brooks, Treasurer, and George Quillan

Also present were: Deanna Quinones, alternate for Mayor Dougherty; Mary Ellen DeNoon, alternate for Mayor Gyorfy; Chad Leinaweaver, Director; and Mary Lynn Becza, Assistant Director

Pursuant to a resolution of the Board and to RS 10:4-10, "Open Public Meetings Act," the president announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting notices of the meeting in the Library, by handing the Clerks of Morristown and Morris Township notices of the meeting, and by mailing to the Morris County Daily Record and the Star Ledger copies of the notices of the meetings all more than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

I. Foundation Support and Landscape Planning

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding possible projects the Board could apply to the Library Foundation to support, immediately and in the future. The capital expenses chart was reviewed, with the replacement dates of such items as the roof, elevator, and A/C units discussed.

Treasurer Brooks reviewed the library's various funding sources, including the different groups supporting the library's various needs. He explained the Foundation is seeking to review projects for support on a more concentrated basis.

A discussion of the landscaping plan was moved up on the agenda, and concerned what aspects of that plan should be implemented now, and which aspects the Board could approach the Foundation to support. Ms. Ard suggested that the library consider enhancing even further its use of its outdoor spaces for the public's benefit.

Consensus occurred over moving forward with the landscaping/signage plan in the following stages:

Signs, tables and chairs, and overall greenery removal and installation.

Installing a perimeter fence and a proposed walkway around the library were considered, along with their possible effect on outdoor library programs. Ms. Becza explained that the back courtyard could not be used for seating, due to its use as a drainage area and its unevenness. However, replacing plantings there is certainly possible.

Costs of various proposed landscaping, signage, and lighting projects were reviewed. Analysis of these issues was facilitated by an outside walk around the library grounds.

It was determined that the Board would make an application to the Foundation for between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for each of the next four years, a multi-years grant that would allow the outdoor plans to be implemented in stages.

## II. Public Comment

The agenda was revised to accommodate Jeremy Diskint of 24 Miller Rd. in Morristown, who wished to make public comment. Mr. Diskint stated he felt that, for patrons with disabilities, some of the library's rules were problematic. He also commented that people with disabilities needed to feel welcomed in the library. Ms. Bangiola thanked Mr. Diskint for his comments and stated they would be reviewed.

## III. Strategic Planning

The library's mission and vision statements were discussed at length and revised; the revisions will be reviewed at a future meeting. The Goals listed in the previous strategic plan were reviewed, with a discussion concerning the best way to get public comment on the strategic plan, especially in an age of COVID.

It was decided that in forthcoming meetings the Board would review the four goals and their objectives, one goal per meeting.

## IV. DEI Statement

The Board reviewed various Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statements from other institutions to facilitate drafting the library's own DEI statement.

A discussion of Mr. Diskint's comments occurred, as did methods of getting public feedback on how best to meet the community's diverse needs, and to introduce more of the public to the library's offerings. As a start, the library staff will be asked for feedback.

## V. COVID Planning

The Director discussed the status of the library's ongoing response to COVID, and its current and future response to the pandemic/endemic. In particular, successful COVID practices were analyzed that we would wish to keep, going forward, such as curbside pickup. It was determined that, for the time being, the plexiglass shields would remain.

The meeting adjourned at 12:48PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ard, Secretary