

Gloucester County Library Commission
at the Gloucester County Library System/Mullica Hill Branch
389 Wolfert Station Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

**Regular Meeting
July 24, 2024**

Present: Mario DiLiscandro (Chair), Donna Ragonese (Vice Chair), Andrea Reahm, Darlene Vondran, Joann Gattinelli (Liaison), Carolyn Oldt (Director), Judith Pissano (Assistant Director), John Alice (Solicitor) and Michael DiPiero (Brown and Connery).

The meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by the Chair who noted that there was a quorum and that the meeting was properly advertised and posted.

Motion and second by Ms. Reahm and Ms. Ragonese to approve the June 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Roll Call vote was taken: Mario DiLiscandro - yea, Donna Ragonese - yea, Andrea Reahm – yea, Darlene Vondran – yea.

There were 50 members of the public present who came to express their concern over Jim O'Connor's transfer. Jennifer Brenner of Williamstown, former employee of GCLS, spoke of her positive experience working with Jim. Carol Sibley of Mullica Hill is a certified gardener volunteer who stated that Jim's transfer is unfair. Judy Humes Cochran is also a certified gardener volunteer who is upset about his transfer and that the library garden is no longer being cared for. Edward James IV is a volunteer who is saddened by the condition of the garden and its effect on the community. Drew Urme, resident of Gibbstown, spoke about how Jim helped him in the Maker Studio and his concern over what will become of the Maker Studio. Beth Hoffman of Wenonah has two sons who frequently use the library and the Maker Studio. She spoke of Jim's positive impact on her sons. Sofran McBride of Woodbury is an artist who Jim helped in the Maker Studio. She showed everyone the art pieces he assisted her with. Leah O'Connor-Klem is Jim's sister. She expressed her concerns over the reasoning for his transfer and stated that the community needs strong volunteer leaders like Jim. Jeff Quattrone founded and heads the Library Seed Program. He said Jim was instrumental in supporting the program and he is the contact he sends people to who want to start their own free seed program. Bob McBride commended Jim's patience and approachability with tech support. He said that those are qualities that are not common. Jim's mother, Carol O'Connor-Malignaggi, stated that if her son is unhappy then she's unhappy. She is also upset that the garden was not taken into consideration. She started the plants from seed and put a lot of work into the garden. Finally Mike Blaszczyk, from the CWA, stated that bad management costs employees and patrons.

Commissioner Chair Mario DiLiscandro thanked everyone for coming and expressing their concerns. Mr. DiLiscandro assured the public that the Library Commission will take their concerns under advisement.

Motion and second by Ms. Ragonese and Ms. Reahm to approve payment of the June 2024 bills. Roll Call vote was taken: Mario DiLiscandro - yea, Donna Ragonese - yea,

Andrea Reahm – yea, Darlene Vondran – yea.

Commissioners Reports - None.

Correspondence – None.

Director's Report – Mrs. Oldt reported that the branches are participating in the state wide Summer Reading program and that they are all doing well. The Youth Services department attended Mantua's Big Night Out. Staff represented the library at Harrison Twp. Day, Juneteenth, Pride Party and Summer Fest. Mrs. Oldt mentioned that 2 branches are partnering with the SJ FoodBank to distribute summer meals to people in need. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Clayton grant is complete. She also mentioned some building issues, that the concrete work is being done at the Mullica Hill branch and the asphalt will be done in September.

Solicitor's Report - Mr. Alice returned signed resolutions as follows:

R.50-2024 Resolution Approving and Adopting the Updated Library Commission By-Laws.

R.51-2021 Resolution Authorizing Closed Session.

Commissioner Liaison's Report – Commissioner Gattinelli thanked the public for coming and stating their concerns. She told everyone that she responded to as many emails as she could and she apologized to anyone who she may have missed.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business -

Approving and Adopting Updated GCLC By-Laws

Resolution #50 approving and adopting the updated Library Commission By-Laws of the Gloucester County Library System. Roll Call vote was taken: Mario DiLisciandro - yea, Donna Ragonese - yea, Andrea Reahm – yea, Darlene Vondran – yea.

Authorizing Closed Session

Resolution #51 entering into closed session to discuss: Personnel and Negotiations. Roll Call vote was taken: Mario DiLisciandro - yea, Donna Ragonese - yea, Andrea Reahm – yea, Darlene Vondran – yea.

Motion and second by Ms. Ragonese and Ms. Reahm to close the open session for discussion of personnel and contract items. All approved.

Motion and second by Ms. Ragonese and Ms. Reahm to open the closed session. All approved.

Commission:GCC Minutes 7 24 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 5:00pm at the
GCLS/Mullica Hill Branch