APPROVED MINUTES
CLIFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JUNE 17, 2026

The monthly meeting of the Trustees of the Clifton Public Library was held on June 17, 2026, at the Main Library, 292 Piaget Avenue, Clifton, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by President Patricia Vasilik. Library Counsel read an announcement which stated that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the meeting had been given to the Record, the Herald News, the Clifton Journal, posted on the Clifton Public Library Website and in the Clifton Public Library and filed with the Clifton City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Present: Thomas Charsky, Richard Ruggiero, Barbara Polk, Vivian Semeraro, Karen Sommers, Tracy Sterni, President Patricia Vasilik, Library Director Justine Tomczak, Assistant Library Director Catherine Wolverton and Library Counsel Michael A. Cerone, Jr. Absent: Rosmunda Kenning, Suzanne Sia.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 20, 2026 meeting. On a motion made by Trustee Ruggiero and seconded by Trustee Sterni, the Board on roll call vote approved the minutes as amended of the May 20, 2026 meeting. Vote: Yes: Charsky, Ruggiero, Polk, Semeraro, Sommers, Sterni and Vasilik; No: None; Absent: Kenning, Sia.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 20, 2026 executive session. On a motion made by Trustee Charsky and seconded by Trustee Semeraro, the Board on roll call vote approved the minutes of the May 20, 2026 executive session. Vote: Yes: Charsky, Ruggiero, Semeraro, Sommers, Sterni; No: None; Abstain: Polk, Vasilik Absent: Kenning, Sia.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one addressed the Board. On motion made by Trustee Polk and seconded by Trustee Ruggiero the Board, with all present being in favor, closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Early Voting took place May 26–31 and was relatively quiet.

Plumbing work was needed the first week of June for a leak in the Main public men's room caused by corroding pipes upstairs.

Unitemp came in on June 12 to address a leak in the staff lounge restroom and higher temps and humidity in the community rooms.

Generations electricians continued the Main outdoor lighting project; the parking lot's tall pole lights remain to be completed.

Staff reported that restaurant valets across the street appeared to be using the Main parking lot at night. The Director contacted the police traffic division. Other residents have reportedly complained to council members.

On May 28, the Director attended the PALS Plus General Membership meeting and the Unhoused Task Force meeting at City Hall.

On June 3, Tech Services Supervisor Carol Loden, several librarians and the Director met virtually with Brodart about order fulfillment delays.

On June 3, Assistant Director Catherine Wolverton and the Director attended an NJ Division on Civil Rights virtual meeting on assistance animals.

Librarian 3 Kathy Grimshaw reports that William Paterson University received an NEA grant for a Big Read project and identified Clifton Library as a partner. The project will feature discussions of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* as part of a community-wide exploration of identity, belonging, and civic ideals for the nation's 250th anniversary.

Dana's Daycare held a practice evacuation drill on June 9, bringing about 67 children and 15 caregivers to Main. It went well.

The Children's Department had a strong response from public schools for visits this year, visiting seven elementary schools and 6th-grade students at Christopher Columbus Middle School for the first time in years. School 4 also brought Kindergarten, 1st- and 2nd-grade students to the library.

United Way is helping recruit volunteers for our Summer Reading Partners program.

The Library added Summer Reading sponsors: Alma Bank, 7-Eleven, Thomas Charsky, the Clifton Beautification Committee, and Applebee's.

The additional Allwood Children's room service desk piece arrived, adding needed work and storage space.

On June 4, 5th-, 6th-, and 7th-grade students from Passaic Arts and Science Clifton Charter School visited Main Library. The students and teachers reviewed library resources, library cards, summer reading programs, and were given a tour.

On June 9, an MSU student poet launched her book, "Jahzara: A Book of Poetry," for teens and other attendees.

Clifton High School's summer reading list is posted. Khusboo is labeling library copies with spine stickers and ordering OverDrive e-books for teens.

Senior Library Assistant Joel Colon hosted Mira Vie seniors for a movie at Main in early June and will do outreach on June 13 at Stop N Shop with a Clifton home healthcare agency. Joel and Matt Agnoli also did outreach at Evergreen Manor's May 27 Health & Wellness Day, and Sonia Ramos will do outreach June 13 at CELA's Family Day.

Personnel:

Hunter Chuako began as part-time Library Assistant, 15 hours/week, $17.98/hour, on June 1.

Part-time Library Assistant Sonia Ramos has been selected to fill a full-time Library Assistant vacancy in the Children's Department. Her start date as full-time was June 1.

Part-time Library Assistant Cheryl Klump has been selected to fill a full-time Library Assistant vacancy in the Circulation Department. Her start date as full-time is June 16.

DONATIONS

Unrestricted:

$ .45 Canister

Restricted:

$ 50.00 For books from Karen Sommers In Memory of Dr. Anthony Barbary

Restricted – DEPARTMENTAL:

$ 159.25 Interest earned – EW FUND for Children's programs
$ 750.00 For Children's Summer Reading programs from Thomas Charsky

Restricted – DEPARTMENTAL:

$ 170.55 Interest earned – EW FUND for Children's programs
$ 100.00 For Children's Summer Reading Program from Cheryl Bender

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Committee reported on efforts to assess the Steinway piano in the Main Library. The committee has received a written report on its condition and a quote for recommended work from Tune It Again, Sam. The committee will get a quote on refinishing and report next month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Board reviewed the Encumbrance and Claims Lists. On Motion made by Trustee Charsky and seconded by Trustee Ruggiero, the Board, on roll call vote, approved the Encumbrance List (2026 Budget) dated June 1, 2026, in the amount of $159,397.07, and the Claims List (2026 Budget) dated June 17, 2026 in the amount of $ 82,949.24. Vote: Yes: Charsky, Ruggiero, Polk, Semeraro, Sommers, Sterni and Vasilik; No: None; Absent: Kenning, Sia.

The Committee recommended that the Board adopt a resolution restricting the sum of $908,182.12 for capital needs of the Library and transfer that sum from the Spencer Savings Bank Operating Account to a Bank of America 7-month CD. On motion made by Trustee Charsky and seconded by Trustee Ruggiero, the Board adopted a resolution restricting the sum of $908,182.12 for capital needs of the Library and to transfer that sum from the Spencer Savings Bank Operating Account to a Bank of America 7-month CD. Vote: Yes: Charsky, Ruggiero, Polk, Semeraro, Sommers, Sterni and Vasilik; No: None; Absent: Kenning, Sia.

Treasurer Charsky reported that the Library currently has 3 accounts at Citizens Bank. This bank provides financing to CoreCivic and The GEO Group which are the two largest private prison operators in the United States. The GEO Group operates Delaney Hall, an ICE detention facility in Newark, NJ. He recommended that the Library close its accounts at Citizens Bank. It was the consensus of the Board that the Treasurer do further research on alternative financial institutions for the Library's banking.

NEW BUSINESS

The Director recommended that the Library renew its contract with the Clifton Police Department for security services at the Main Library for the 2026-2027 school year. On Motion made by Trustee Polk and seconded by Trustee Semeraro, the Board, on roll call vote, approved the police service contract with the Clifton Police Department on the terms set forth in the contract dated June 18, 2026. Vote: Yes: Charsky, Ruggiero, Polk, Semeraro, Sommers, Sterni and Vasilik; No: None; Absent: Kenning, Sia.

The Director recommended that the Board approve the purchase of three computer workstations for the children's department that will include an early literacy station, bilingual Spanish and bilingual French. On motion made by Trustee Ruggiero and seconded by Trustee Charsky the Board, on roll call vote, approved the purchase of three computer workstations from AWE Learning in accordance with their quote dated June 11, 2026 in the amount of $13,464.00. Vote: Yes: Charsky, Ruggiero, Polk, Semeraro, Sommers, Sterni and Vasilik; No: None; Absent: Kenning, Sia.

The Board reviewed quotations from Precision Garage Door and Reiner Overhead Doors for repairs to the Main Library garage door. Library Administration recommended Precision Garage Door based on prior experience and the limited lifetime warranty. On motion made by Trustee Charsky and seconded by Trustee Ruggiero the Board, on roll call vote, authorized the Director to contract with Precision Garage Door for the repair of the Main Library Garage Door in accordance with their quote dated 5/26/26 at a total cost of $3,780.00. Vote: Yes: Charsky, Ruggiero, Polk, Semeraro, Sommers, Sterni and Vasilik; No: None; Absent: Kenning, Sia.

On motion made by Trustee Charsky and seconded by Trustee Semeraro the Board, with all present being in favor, adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Cerone, Jr.
MICHAEL A. CERONE, JR.
Library Counsel