



February 15, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Reading Public Library commenced virtually at 4:30 PM using ZOOM, an online meeting platform, Dennis Skayhan, President, presiding.

**Present:** Renee Dietrich, Zelda Yoder, Alan Carman, Dennis Skayhan, Michel Micozzi, Scott Lindsey, Paul Hoh, Sherry Cameron, Felix Pena, Chris Phillips, Keith Mooney, Nancy Campbell, Ramona Turner Turpin, Salvadore Sepulveda, Alba Fernandez, Bronwen Gamble, Vicky Fuller, Stephanie Williams and Linda Capozello.

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Marissa Guidara, Jesse Royer

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the January minutes was made by Zelda Yoder, seconded by Salvadore Sepulveda. Approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Chris Phillips presented the report. We received state and county funding as well as the first distribution from Tigh. Motion to accept the January Treasurer's report was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Nancy Campbell. Accepted.

**Director's Report:** Stephanie Williams gave a summary for district services. RPL received the 7/12 District Payment in February. Sinking Spring Library will be voting on their new Director this evening. Changes to the DLC budget for Fiscal Year 20/21 were provided prior to the meeting. The changes were highlighted. County library directors voted on the changes and the new budget was submitted to the Commonwealth Libraries. The fiscal budget for the DLC for 21/22 will be drafted in the coming weeks. Based on the Governor's suggested budget we expect flat funding.

Bronwen Gamble reported that she attended the Mayor's State of the City Address on January 29<sup>th</sup>. RPL received a shout out for our services provided to patrons during the pandemic. RPL was also mentioned at the City Council meeting that was aired on BCTV for our services we have been providing to the community. The PA Forward Director, Rob Leshner, met with Nancy Maurer and Bronwen Gamble regarding the virtual tours that Nancy has been doing of the Main library for area schools. PaLa would like to use RPL as an example for other libraries to be able to do the same. Bronwen wanted to acknowledge Ron Smith and our security guard, Duane Hamaker for making sure the sidewalks and stairs are clean and salted during all the recent inclement weather. Branch Managers also insured their sidewalks and entries remained clear for patrons. The Lisa McCoy memorial bench dedication will be scheduled at the convenience of Lisa's family.

**Library Services:** No Report

**Facilities:** Michel Micozzi reported that they met at the Southeast branch January 28<sup>th</sup>. Frank Watts completed drawings of the meeting room space and has received some costs for the project. A budget will be drafted. Upgrades to the main library HVAC will occur in late September. Schatz submitted a quote for \$26,000 to convert the Main library lighting to LED and the proposal has already been signed. This expense is part of the City capital improvement budget designated for library generated projects.

**Finance:** Alan Carman reported the committee met prior to the board meeting. The United Way has moved to an online portal for submitting requests and documentation for grants. Bronwen has completed the grant

proposal for early literacy in the amount of \$25,000. Motion to approve the United Way grant submission was made by Alan Carman and seconded by Chris Phillips. Approved.

The Finance Committee discussed the proposal for staff paid days during emergency situations when the library building closes. Although the finance committee agrees that the expense could be covered by existing operational funds, they will defer the proposal to the Personnel Committee to discuss further.

**Personnel:** No Report

**Advancement:** Nancy Campbell reported that the 2020 Annual Appeal raised over \$41,000. Our Facebook marketing posts advertised virtual concerts with the Reading Symphony Orchestra, media releases and the recently received Baker-Tilly grant. The Loyalty Society has 16 new members bringing the total membership up to 139. Cocktails and Classics is scheduled for October 1, 2021.

**Strategic Planning:** Paul Hoh commented that the committee is looking forward to the next meeting with Matt Finch on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The committee has already drafted a wide-ranging mural map, which is a visual collaboration of content that you can view and organize.

**Unfinished Business:** Keith Mooney motioned to approve a one-year term appointment to the RPLF Board of Directors for Dennis Skayhan, Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, and Paul Hoh. Seconded by Nancy Campbell. Approved.

The membership agreement with the County Library Systems is still under discussion. Suggested changes will be sent to board presidents of member libraries and then the new draft will be reviewed by Keith Mooney.

**New Business:** Sherry Cameron mentioned that the Berks Opera Company in collaboration with the Yocum Institute will perform Three Little Pigs on the Main Library steps on August 20<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Zelda Yoder's Trivia Question: Why do we celebrate Black History Month in February? Answer: Because February is the month of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.

Motion to adjourn made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Alfonso Pena. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Sherry Cameron  
Board Secretary