



June 21, 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: Dennis Skayhan, Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, Michel Micozzi, Alba Fernandez, Renee Dietrich, Zelda Yoder, Scott Lindsey, Paul Hoh, Sherry Cameron, Felix Pena, Keith Mooney, Nancy Campbell, Bronwen Gamble, Vicky Fuller, Stephanie Williams and Linda Capozello.

Absent: Salvadore Sepulveda, excused. Ramona Turner Turpin, unexcused.

Guests: Marissa Guidara, Amy Resh, Jennifer Bressler and Attorney, Jim Smith.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the May minutes was made by Renee Dietrich, seconded by Alan Carman. Approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Chris Phillips presented the report and mentioned we were on target for income. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Alan Carman, seconded by Dennis Skayhan. Accepted.

**Director's Report:** Stephanie Williams reported for the District. The Boone Area Library Director has passed away unexpectedly. Stephanie is working to assist the library with various duties during this time. The District Aid fiscal year closes June 30<sup>th</sup>. A written report was sent out prior to the meeting. Jennifer Bressler reported the library has scheduled over 30 programs, events, presentations and performances for the summer reading program. An email blast was sent a week prior to the start of summer reading and had a 36% open rate. Normal is 19%. Bronwen reported that the Fine Free pilot program has been well received and gathered local and national attention. Since Berks County has a low Covid transmission rate, the Main Library as well as the Northeast and Southeast branches will open on Saturdays beginning July 10<sup>th</sup> for 7 hours to meet state standards. We are waiting on direction from City Hall for the mask mandates to be lifted.

**Library Services:** No Report.

**Facilities:** The LED light conversion at the Main Library is completed. The fire suppression system install is ongoing. The AC at main has had some technical issues with the controls communicating with the system. The meeting room at Southeast is underway. The glass wall install is set for July 22 and the project is on target for completion the second week of August.

**Finance:** Alan Carman reported that the committee met on June 8 and discussed the upcoming positions, one part time and one full-time and the impact on the budget. Nancy Campbell inquired about the full time position as to what benefits they will receive. Bronwen replied they are eligible for benefits after 30 days and will receive 10 days of PTO to use as they choose.

**Personnel:** Renee Dietrich reported that they have received nine applicants for the Executive Director Search. We will advertise with both New York and New Jersey library associations setting a deadline to apply for July 15. Jim Shankweiler will schedule a time to review the applications and schedule zoom interviews.

**Advancement:** Nancy Campbell gave an update on Cocktails and Classics as well as the patron donations received to date. She thanked Jennifer Bressler for her ongoing success in implementing summer reading programs. Celebrity Bartender is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Strategic Planning:** Paul Hoh reported that the four pillars went out to the board for review. By focusing on those, RPL is set up for success but a lot of work still needs to be done. We have several opportunities to have a major impact on libraries locally and beyond.

**Unfinished Business:** Renee Dietrich asked if there was any updates regarding the County Membership Agreement. Amy Resh responded that the solicitor is putting it together for the libraries to review. Paul Hoh expressed his concerns on how this has been handled stating that collaboration is different than actual feedback.

**New Business:** None

Zelda's Trivia. To go along with the Fine Free craze through the country, an Ohio library recently received an overdue item from 1973. An 8<sup>th</sup> grader at the time who is now a retiree returned the item along with \$175 after 17,480 days overdue. What was the item? Answer: The Bob Dylan album *Self Portrait*.

The Board entered Executive Session at 5 pm and ended at 5:45 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller.

Sherry Cameron,  
Board Secretary