



October 19, 2020

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

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

Absent: None

Guests: Stephanie Williams, District Consultant. Marissa Guidara, District Youth Services. Amy Resh, BCPL Administrator. Rachel Constein, Acting NE Branch Manager. Jesse Royer, Reference Librarian. Frank Dembowski, Chief of Staff to Mayor, City of Reading.

Public Comment: Frank Dembowski, on behalf of Mayor Eddie Moran, commended RPL for the work they do fulfilling our mission to support the needs of the community. He also commented that the library adapted to HVAC issues and Covid using creativity to fulfill services during this time. RPL is relevant in providing services in person as well as a strong online presence. The City will continue to support RPL even through Act 47. Bronwen Gamble commented that RPL is appreciative of our working relationship with the city and Mayor Moran.

Rachel Constein gave an overview of the Northeast library. She mentioned that the branch was starting to see several Muhlenberg patrons during their closure. The library continues to see regular patrons and the Go Packs which include an activity that is linked to our virtual story-time, are usually all picked up within two days. Family night, Stem labs, and Story-times posted on You-Tube continue to be successful. They are seeing a steady increase of families and children using wifi to log in for school.

Minutes: Keith Mooney motioned to approve the September minutes, seconded by Dennis Skayhan. Approved

Treasurers Report: Alan Carman presented the report. Motion to accept the September Treasurer's report by Salvadore Sepulveda and seconded by Michel Micozzi. Accepted.

Director's Report: Bronwen Gamble reported that patrons continue to follow safety protocols and are very cooperative. Pedro Cortes, City Managing Director, leaves on October 30th and Abe Amoros starts on November 9th. Branches have joined in virtual programming on our social media platforms. CARES Act funding request for \$21,000 was submitted and has been received.

Library Services: Zelda Yoder reported the committee did not meet, but are working on policy changes. They plan to have their next meeting in the coming weeks and will be ready to present to the board at the next meeting.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi met with Bronwen and several others at Southeast to review and discuss the modular meeting rooms and both Southeast and Northeast libraries versus frame up in the field ones. Proposals are forthcoming for restoration of the 3rd floor ceiling at the Main Library as well as new ceilings and lighting at Northeast and Southeast. The need of new security cameras at the main library was addressed. Dennis Skayhan proposed the idea of the District Attorney's office covering this expense, which was approved. A proposal will be drafted.

Finance: Alan Carman reported that the committee did not meet but that several budget scenarios were being drafted and the committee will meet prior to the next board meeting.

Personnel: Dennis Skayhan presented the Remote Work policy that was previously submitted to the board for review. Areas that were highlighted included eligibility based on need, terms and conditions, roles and responsibilities.

Motion was made by Dennis Skayhan to adopt the Remote Work Policy, seconded by Keith Mooney. Adopted.

Advancement: Nancy Campbell reported that for the 2020 Annual Appeal the goal is \$30,000. Dr. Dan Kimball has agreed to chair the appeal. Letters will be mailed in November. The Loyalty Society welcome cards were mailed. A virtual presentation is planned. Sherry Cameron has been in touch with Classic Harley Davidson to sponsor a ride for the library this spring.

Strategic Planning: Paul Hoh plans to meet with Bronwen Gamble and the rest of the committee in the near future. The Library Company has their annual meeting in November 10 at 4:30 PM. Paul reported that Keith Mooney agreed to a new term beginning January 1st. Romona Turpin has agreed to serve on the board for three years pending approval at the meeting.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Bronwen discussed the waivers of standards regarding the hours opened at Main and the Branches for 2019 and 2020. A resolution was previously sent to the board for review.

Paul Hoh made the motion to approve the Board Resolution to waive the hours standard for the Main Library for 2019 and 2020 as well as the branches for the year 2020, seconded by Zelda Yoder. Approved.

Zelda's history trivia. The Lake City Public Library in South Carolina was renamed the Ronald McNair Library Center. Who was he and was the library renamed for him? Ronald McNair was one of the seven astronauts killed in the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster in 1986. In 1959 as a 9-year-old boy, he made a scene at the Lake City Public Library as he tried attempted to check out books on advanced science and calculus. The librarian refused to release them to him, as "they did not circulate books to negros". Police were called, and arrived with Ronald's mother. Police determined that the boy was not causing a public disturbance, and Ronald's mother offered to pay for the books if they were not returned. The librarian gave in. View full story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/ronald-mcnair-challenger-explosion-victim-honored-hometown/story?id=12794042>

Motion to adjourn was made by Alan Carman and seconded by Nancy Campbell. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Sherry Cameron
Board Secretary