



September 16, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Reading Public Library commenced at 4:30 PM, 113 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Reading, PA. Nancy Campbell, President, presiding.

**Present:** Zelda Yoder, Paul Hoh, Dennis Skayhan, Michel Micozzi, Alfonso Pena; Keith Mooney, Nancy Campbell, Renee Dietrich, Ernie Schlegel, Chris Phillips, Bronwen Gamble, Vicky Fuller & Linda Capozello.

**Absent:** Alan Carman, Maureen Dolan, Sherry Cameron & Salvadore Sepulveda Excused.  
Tamara Smith. Unexcused.

**Guest:** Amy Resh, BCPL.

**Public Comment:** Nancy Campbell introduced Chris Phillips to the Board of Trustees. Amy Resh shared that the BCPL budget meeting will be on Thursday at 2:30 PM. She will be attending. The library system is requesting a 2% increase for Berks County Libraries, as well as a 2% increase in funding directly to Reading Public Library. She will keep us posted.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the June 2019 Minutes was made by Dennis Skayhan, seconded by Michel Micozzi. Approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Motion to accept the August Treasurer's Report was made by Ernie Schlegel and seconded by Keith Mooney. Accepted.

**Director's Report:** Report given by Bronwen Gamble. The Conversational Spanish class at NE has registered over 20 participants and still has a long waiting list. Summer Reading statistics were shared. Bronwen also mentioned that the Reading Public Library will be part of a nationwide boycott of 4 eAudio publishers. Currently the publishers being boycotted are putting limitations that only one copy can be purchased and after so many circs you are required to repurchase the item. A formal press release is being drafted.

**Library Services:** Zelda Yoder gave the report. The committee met on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Items that were discussed were the elimination of teen book fines and fines eliminated for children's books but not for lost items. Discussion amongst board members was about the amount of fines that would be waived. Bronwen said that they had reviewed the numbers but would send an email out with the amount of fines assessed in 2018. Amy Resh mentioned that the policy regarding fines was system wide and that if adopted at Reading that only Reading owned items could be waived and not books from other libraries. The committee also discussed Welcome cards as well as eCards to all who show they live, work or attend school in Reading, but were not in support of the idea. The committee also discussed the Outreach Coordinator position to increase hours and responsibility. The position would change to Manager of Community Engagement. Bronwen is seeking grant funding to cover the salary increase. Recommendations from the committee that included discussion were allowing teens to open their own library cards at age 15, as well as continue to remain open on Wednesdays at Northwest through the end of the year. The topic regarding the cost to operate NW for the additional day was discussed, and that funding through the rest of the year was manageable.

Motion to approve Teens to sign for their own library cards at the age of 15 was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Ernie Schlegel. Approved.

Motion to approve Northwest Branch to remain open on Wednesdays through the end of the year was made by Paul Hoh and seconded by Renee Dietrich. Approved.

**Facilities:** Michel Micozzi reported that the meeting room commons project was in the process of finalizing the design. A meeting with Dr. Marcus is scheduled this week to review the plans. The committee has proposals for materials and will be working with the board attorney to draft contracts for all the vendors. Ernie inquired about the chandeliers at the main library being changed to support LED bulbs.

**Finance:** No Report from the committee.

Nancy Campbell commented, "I have always commended the Board for their respect for each other. We have a very thoughtful Board and I admire all for the volunteer hours that you dedicate to RPL. Out of respect for the Finance Committee and the original decision of the Board vote, the question of a new banking relationship will not be revisited by my direction at this time. I would like my opposition to changing our banking relationship to BB&T noted, not because of any personal benefits, but because of my passion for RPL and its connection with the community. I will direct Bronwen to proceed with the transition. My thanks to everyone who contributed to this decision and to the subsequent lively discussion by the Board."

Ernie Schlegel did not feel that the RFP that was submitted contained the necessary proposal information and offered to draft an RFP template to be used in the future when selecting vendors for services. Zelda Yoder expressed that she understood why the Finance Committee recommended BB&T but since BB&T will be merging with Suntrust that perhaps we should review our banking services after the merger in lieu of any changes that may occur. It was suggested that a committee be formed to review the banking services again. Keith Mooney was asked if a motion was needed to review the services. Keith recommended that the board not make a time sensitive motion, but to allow the review to be conducted at any time the committee felt it was warranted. Trustees that offered to serve on this committee were Nancy Campbell, Zelda Yoder and Ernie Schlegel. Dennis Skayhan suggested that the committee consist of a person that is a part of the day-to-day banking operations of the library. Bronwen agreed to serve in this capacity.

**Personnel:** No Report at this time.

**Advancement:** Report given by Renee Dietrich. For the Get Carded campaign this month, RPL will feature 5 community individuals to include; David Hall, Johanny Cepeda, Edward Swoyer, Edward Kazin and Richard Bradbury. RPL's quarterly newsletter *PAGES* is scheduled to be released on October 7<sup>th</sup>. A 60 second video will premier via our online campaign for giving. Another video is in production that will be approximately 2.5 minutes and will include footage from summer reading. Mark your calendars for the Cultivation Event which will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Main Library.

**Strategic Planning:** Paul Hoh emailed the committee report prior to the board meeting. The committee has affirmed the three strategic initiatives from the previous plan and the staff has developed action steps to move forward in those areas. Items discussed included specific recommendations from the Library Services committee. Paul expanded on the topic to include supporting the Northwest Branch being open the additional day for 2020. Items shared in the report also included giving free Cocktails and Classics tickets to potential donors who have yet to give but have significant giving capacity, increase endowment givers as well as pursuing increased county funding.

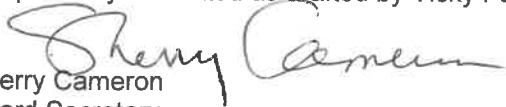
**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** The Nominating Committee will need to select officers for 2020. Trustees willing to serve on this committee are Renee Dietrich and Zelda Yoder. Dennis Skayhan has offered to chair the committee.

Trivia: From the samples forwarded from the post card collection, what was the comment that was listed on the postcard image of the old Reading Public Library (circa 1907)? Answer: "This place I do not like to visit, ha ha," Sara.

Motion to adjourn made by Zelda Yoder, seconded by Ernie Schlegel. Approved.

Respectively submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,

  
Sherry Cameron  
Board Secretary