



March 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, Keith Mooney, Vice President, presiding.

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

Absent: Dennis Skayhan, Alba Fernandez, Salvadore Sepulveda.

Guests: Marissa Guidara, Jesse Royer, Amy Resh

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Motion to approve the February minutes was made by Alan Carman, seconded by Paul Hoh. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips reported that other than standard operations there was nothing to report regarding the finances for February. Motion to accept the February 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. Pal-a Legislative Committee met last week and will be lobbying for several items included a five million dollar public library subsidy. Glen Miller, the state Deputy Secretary for Libraries has announced his retirement in April.

Bronwen Gamble reported she is working with staff on writing grant proposals offered by Pal-a, American Heart Association, the Wyomissing Foundation, Orphans of Oddfellows and Berks County Community Foundation. The reference department is actively assisting patrons that need help signing up for the Covid-19 vaccination. We held our second "For the Culture" book club hosted by Sharice Towles via Zoom. Bronwen is working with Mike Najarian on a Wyomissing Foundation Task Force investigating the digital divide. They have identified and are mapping in detail the little or no connectivity in Reading School District households.

Library Services: Zelda Yoder reported the committee met on March 9 and discussed two issues. Currently the state standards of weekend operating hours would require the main library to be open an additional 1.5 hours. At this time, we are targeting to open Main, Northeast and Southeast on Saturdays beginning May 1 or when Berks County reaches the low transmission rate for Covid-19. The Northwest library will remain closed on the weekends due to staffing shortfalls. The pilot program to go fine free was discussed as well. ILL items, museum passes and fees for lost or damage items will remain the same. The program would run from June through December and only include overdue RPL items.

Motion to begin the pilot Fine Free program with exceptions on June 1 and extend until December 31, 2021 was made by Zelda Yoder and seconded by Nancy Campbell. Approved.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi reported that the committee met on March 13th via zoom with Of-fix and was presented with options for the Southeast meeting room. Selections will be made over the next few weeks. No other facility issues to report. The LED lighting proposal was signed and we are waiting on a start date from Schatz Electric.

Finance: No report.

Personnel: No Report

Advancement: Nancy Campbell mentioned Linda's team continues to work on the new RPI- mission statement, logo and website. The committee is working on finding local "celebrities" and a venue for Celebrity Bartender. The Cocktails and Classics committee will meet in April. The March edition of PAGES newsletters have been mailed.

Strategic Planning: Paul Hoh provided copies of Scenarios for the Library's Future and a meeting with Matt Finch was held prior to the board meeting today. The document covered what we've done and where we are. The next steps will include priorities and what we want to focus on for the next 3-5 years.

Unfinished Business: The membership agreement with the County Library Systems was discussed. Ten member libraries are in agreement with the revisions that were proposed and we are waiting on a response from the County. Keith Mooney will circulate the draft document to the board after the meeting.

New Business: Keith Mooney reported that Bronwen Gamble has submitted her letter of resignation and we need to appoint an Executive Director Search Committee. Jim Shankweiler has offered to chair the committee. Renee Dietrich, Salvadore Sepulveda and Ramona Turpin as board trustees and Marissa Guidara as the library representative have offered to serve on the committee. Candidates will be interviewed via Zoom and finalists will interview in person and then with the board of trustees.

Motion to accept with regret Bronwen's intent to retire on or around December 17, 2021 was made by Paul Hoh and seconded by Alan Carman. Accepted.

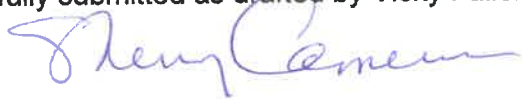
Motion to appoint Jim Shankweiler, Renee Dietrich, Salvadore Sepulveda, Ramona Turpin and Marissa Guidara as the Executive Director Search Committee was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Alan Carman. Approved.

Zelda Yoder's Trivia Question: In Honor of Women's History month, of the following three categories, what title authored by women was the most circulated?

- Most circulated Audiobook on CD: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
- Most circulated printed book: *Bird by Bird, Some Instructions on Writing and Life*, by Ann Lamott
- Most circulated item electronically (eBook and eAudio): *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens

Motion to adjourn made by Zelda Yoder and seconded by Paul Hoh. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller.



Sherry Cameron,
Board Secretary