



September 21, 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.

Absent: Salvadore Sepulveda, Sherry Cameron, Dennis Skayhan excused. Tamara Smith, unexcused.

Guests: Stephanie Williams, District Consultant. Marissa Guidara, District Youth Services, Amy Resh, BCPL Administrator, Nancy Maurer, RPL Children's Department Supervisor, Ashy Roman, Teen Loft Supervisor. Maria Martinez, library science student.

Public Comment: Ashy Roman and Nancy Maurer gave a presentation on the virtual summer reading program.

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

Treasurers Report: Alan Carman presented the report. Motion to accept the June, July, August Treasurer's report by Alfonso Pena, seconded by Chris Phillips. Accepted.

Director's Report: Bronwen Gamble reported the Main Library HVAC died on August 17th and for four weeks the library had no air conditioning. The library was closed to the public on August 20th due to the heat. Staff worked in the basement where it was cooler. The HVAC was replaced September 4th and inspected on September 11th when the unit was turned on. It was reported that hours were expanded on September 14th and patrons have been compliant with restrictions in place. Main will be open 43 hours a week while the branches are open 23 hours a week. We will increase hours as patron demand rises. We received a grant from the PA Humanities Council that is being used to fund the our RPL to GO app as well as Go Packs which are book and activity packs that are distributed throughout the city alongside school meals. We have also applied for a grant with the Giorgio Foundation. PaLa awarded a Best Practice for our Summer Steam program, and our program Food for Thought received Honorable Mention. Marissa Guidara received a PaLa Certificate of Merit as well. Bronwen was elected to be the PaLa Director at large for the upcoming year. Amy Resh continues to advocate for library funding.

Library Services: Zelda Yoder reported the committee did not meet, however Bronwen Gamble kept the committee informed of all changes to library services due to COVID and HVAC issues. Policies are currently under review.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi reported the new chiller at the Main Library was installed and also wanted to commend the exceptional job Public Works did to have the chiller purchased, delivered and installed all within four weeks. The bid for the Fire Suppression system has been awarded. A meeting at Southeast is scheduled for Thursday September 24th to consider modular meeting pods with the remainder of the Marcus Meeting Room funds.

Finance: Alan Carman reported that the committee met with Linda Himebeck with Herbein + Company regarding the 2019 Library audit. There were no deficiencies, no material weaknesses, and the audit was given the highest score possible. The Executive Committee met and approved the audit and subsequently give their recommendation to the board to do the same.

Motion to approve the 2019 audit as presented was made by Alan Carman, seconded by Paul Hoh. Approved.

Chris Phillips sent out a draft of the Purchasing Policy for review prior to the board meeting. During the Finance Committee, meeting earlier today the committee changed the wording on #5 from "They" to "No employee or board member".

Motion to approve the Purchasing Policy as corrected was made by Chris Phillips, seconded by Alan Carman. Approved.

Personnel: No Report. The committee is reviewing a draft of a Remote Work Policy and will send a final copy prior to the October board meeting.

Advancement: Nancy Campbell reported that we have two Lamar Advertising digital billboards along the 422 corridor. We also have ads in the Reading Eagle as well as Palo magazine. Nancy reported that we have received more funds today than we did this time last year. The Cameron Shrier Foundation (based in San Francisco) has awarded RPL an unrestricted grant for two years totaling \$200,000. The first year payment has already been received. The foundation was very impressed with the work our youth services department is doing. Cocktails and Classics has been moved to October 2021. The committee also has started the 1763 Loyalty Society for any donor that has given \$50 or more each year for five consecutive years.

Strategic Planning: Pal Hoh discussed approaching the Community Foundation for a grant in 2021 that would pay a consultant to assist with the development of a three-year plan.

Unfinished Business: None

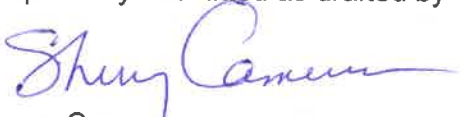
New Business: Renee asked members to serve on the Nominating Committee to select officers for 2021. Nancy Campbell will be the chairperson, Salvador Sepulveda and Zelda Yoder volunteered to serve.

The October board meeting that was previously scheduled to be held at the Northeast Branch will be conducted via Zoom. Renee would like the board to consider possibly meeting in person, or a hybrid thereof for the December meeting on Monday the 14th.

Zelda Yoder presented the trivia question. Who is the only writer to have published book in nine of the ten Dewey Classification categories? Isaac Asimov.

Motion to adjourn was made by Zelda Yoder and seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Sherry Cameron
Board Secretary