



February 21, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Reading Public Library commenced at 4:30 PM, Dennis Skayhan, President, presiding.

Present: Dennis Skayhan, Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, Michel Micozzi, Renee Dietrich, Zelda Yoder, Scott Lindsey, Sherry Cameron, Felix Pena, Keith Mooney, Nancy Campbell, Ramona Turner Turpin, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller.

Absent: Salvadore Sepulveda and Alba Fernandez. Excused.

Guests: Marissa Guidara, Becky Wanamaker and Jess Royer

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Motion to approve the January 2022 minutes was made by Alan Carman and seconded by Felix Pena. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips reported on income, grants received, the Tigh fund disbursement as well as expenses. It appears as business as usual. Investments recorded a loss due to the current market. Motion to accept the January Treasurer's report was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Alan Carman. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported that we have seen an increase in students due to virtual learning and they rely on the Library's Wi-Fi to connect to their class. Programming at all branches is beginning to return to a more normal level. Outreach is increasing in services to community partners as well as other district libraries. Circulation dealt with some staff shortages due to Covid quarantine restrictions and booster reactions. We have hired two new part time staff, Paige Henry and Becky Wolfe. Other personnel changes are our new District Consultant, Becky Wanamaker who started on January 31. Ryan Yanchocik joined as our Senior Outreach Coordinator on January 3. Emily McNulty went along with Ryan in the Sr. Outreach van for two weeks for pick-up and drop-off services. This was a way to show Ryan were all the sites were, how to enter, and allow him to meet the managers and some patrons. He will begin offering full services in the beginning of February. Angi Alex, our reference paraprofessional has resigned with her last day being February 18. We are working on a job advertisement and description to get out as soon as feasible. Daniel Egusquiza worked with two key neighbors and community leaders to apply for a grant to secure funding for mural two mural projects. The Library was selected to be the recipient of the service project called "Share the Plate" at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County. For this project once a month, they designate one plate collection to benefit Reading-Berks non-profit organization that reflects their values and principles. A member of this congregation was so appreciative and happy with the outreach services the library has been able to provide, especially during the pandemic, that she decided to advocate for us to receive this donation. Melissa spoke briefly at the church yesterday.

Library Services: No Report. Zelda has scheduled the first meeting tomorrow, 2/22/22 at 5pm.

Facilities: Michel met with Public Works regarding improvements for the library. Some of the items that Melissa would like to see added as projects include: Establish a list and have one company oversee all security, add a barrier at Northwest to prevent drivers running over sidewalk, renovate the back office space on the 3rd floor for a teen room, add an elevator at the back of the Main library, replace stained and damaged ceiling tiles, install new circulation desks at Southeast and Northwest, install new book elevator at Main, add a Northwest meeting room, check to see if a roof-top area is feasible, and renovate the Circulation area.

Finance: Alan Carman sent out the Investment Policy for review with a vote expected in March.

Alan discussed the Advancement budget. Renee Dietrich moved to authorize expenses for the Advancement budget up to essential cost levels for 2022, seconded by Chris Phillips. Approved.

Alan discussed the Gift Acceptance Policy and a suggested revision in case of an event cancellation. Motion was made by Alan Carman to add "Upon the necessity of an event cancellation, donations will be transferred to the following year or returned in full upon request", seconded by Zelda Yoder. Approved.

Personnel: No Report but Keith Mooney stated a meeting invite is forth coming.

Advancement: Nancy Campbell reported on the media coverage from the Reading Eagle, in person programming, the visit by US Representative Chrissy Houlahan, receipt of the PA Humanities Council grant, and assistance with applying for at home Covid tests. The PAGES with the 2021 donor report is scheduled for mailing. There will be a reception for Melissa Adams on April 20th from 5:30-6:30 PM by invitation only. Celebrity Bartender is scheduled for May 19th at Saucony Creek Franklin Station from 5-8 PM. Cocktails and Classics will be Friday, September 30th. The Redner's Save a Tape program was also discussed.

Strategic Planning: Felix Pena mentioned that Daniel Egusquiza approached him with an idea regarding the Strategic Plan. Felix will be meeting with him to discuss it Wednesday evening.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Zelda's trivia question was "What state has the most presidential libraries? Answer: Texas. The first president to have a presidential library was Herbert Hoover.

Motion to enter Executive session at 5:05 was made by Keith Mooney, and seconded by Alan Carman. Motion to exit at 5:33 and adjourn the board meeting was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Alan Carman.



Scott Lindsey
Board Secretary