



December 13, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Reading Public Library commenced @ 4:30PM at 113 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA. Dennis Skayhan, President, presiding.

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

**Absent:** Salvadore Sepulveda, Alba Fernandez, and Ramona Turner Turpin. Excused.

**Guests:** Marissa Guidara

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the November 2021 minutes was made by Alan Carman and seconded by Paul Hoh. Approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Chris Phillips reviewed the report. Nancy Campbell asked if any overtime had been paid in the last two years. Bronwen Gamble responded no. Motion to accept the November Treasurer's Report was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Zelda Yoder. Accepted.

**Director's Report:** Bronwen Gamble reported that in case it is needed the library has a request for reconsideration form regarding materials that may be considered a sensitive topic. A scripted reply is being prepared. If a patron uses their phone to record the interaction we can ask not be recorded. Mayor Moran attended the cookie decoration class at the Northeast Branch. Northwest has been having sensory programs monthly. The District Attorney, John Adams, presented the library with a check for 55,867 for the purchase of security cameras with the balance being paid from the city's approved capital improvement budget. These cameras are for all 4 branch libraries, inside and outside with footage stored in the cloud. Sharice Towles launched her new book of poetry with a book signing and reading on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The District Library Center search committee made an offer which was accepted. The new District Consultant will start January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Personnel:** No Report

**Library Services:** Zelda Yoder reported that the committee did not meet since the last meeting. BCPL has dropped the \$2 fee for replacement library cards.

Zelda Yoder made the motion to eliminate the RPL replacement fee for new library cards to align with the county policy. Seconded by Alan Carman. Approved.

**Facilities:** Michel Micozzi reported the committee did not meet, but that Bronwen Gamble and Public Works did a walk through at the Northwest library to list items needing attention. There was also a report of a sewage backup at Northwest as well. Bronwen stated that she will be introducing Melissa Adams to Public Works on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The new upgrades for the HVAC system at Main will be done in the Spring. This should finish out the system.

**Finance:** Alan Carman reported that the committee met today at 3:30. The Investment Policy should be ready by the January meeting. Chris reviewed the 2022 budget that includes the American Rescue funds which the

city is scheduled to vote on tonite. Chris pointed out a decrease in utilities due to the conversion to LED lighting at Main. He also discussed the maintenance budget which includes the cleaning contracts for Main and the branches.

Motion to approve the proposed 2022 budget was made by Alan Carman and seconded by Scott Lindsey. Approved.

**Advancement:** Nancy Campbell reported that the Cultivation Event held at the Main Library was well received. Current fundraising to date is at \$579,228 which is already \$50,000 more than last year. Alan Carman inquired about the grants and which ones would return for 2022. Bronwen noted those on the Advancement report that reoccur or have reoccurred every year.

**Strategic Planning:** Bronwen mentioned that she and Matthew Finch collaborated and submitted an article for the Library Journal which was approved.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** Dennis presented the Board Meeting Dates for 2022. Motion to accept the Board Meeting dates for 2022 was made by Zelda Yoder and seconded by Alan Carman. Accepted.

The dates will appear in the legal ads of the Reading Eagle the last Wednesday in December.

Melissa Adams, the new Executive Director was introduced. Her official first day will be tomorrow, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Resolution for eGrant signatory was made available to the board prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Keith Mooney to approve Melissa Adams as the signer on the eGrant Resolution, seconded by Nancy Campbell. Approved.

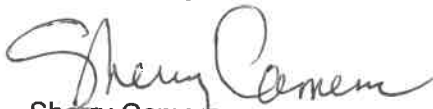
Zelda's Trivia. In the original manuscript of *A Christmas Carol*, Tiny Tim had a different name. What was it?  
Answer: Little Fred.

Dennis Skayhan presented Bronwen Gamble with a plaque for her 23 years of dedicated service to RPL.

Paul Hoh was also presented with a plaque for his 18 years of dedicated service as a Library Board Trustee. Paul gave remarks that he has been proud to serve and to have been a part of the fundraising as well as the developing of a strong Board of Trustees with diverse backgrounds.

Motion to adjourn was made by Zelda Yoder and seconded by Michel Micozzi.

Respectively submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller

  
Sherry Cameron,  
Board Secretary