



January 17, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Reading Public Library commenced virtually at 4:30 PM using ZOOM, an online meeting platform, Dennis Skayhan, President, presiding.

Present: Dennis Skayhan, Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, Michel Micozzi, Alba Fernandez, 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, excused.

Guests: Marissa Guidara

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Motion to approve the December 2021 minutes was made by Alan Carman and seconded by Zelda Yoder. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips reported that the year ending income was above budget due to more grants received. Year ending expenses were slightly above budget, however, salaries were under budget, as was utilities. JMS investments increased by 500,000. Motion to accept the December 2021 Treasurer's report was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Ramona Turner Turpin. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported that patrons saved 1.5 million dollars using the library last year and the top patron saved \$19,000. RPL is doing a weekly segment on WEEU, *Talk it Out*, from 4-4:30 PM. This is a free service. Northeast received thank you letters for continuing to provide virtual yoga. Daniel Egusquiza and Tim Compton from Goggleworks installed the art hanging system in the SE branch. Covid-19 exposure and isolation requirements have caused some staffing issues. Northwest is currently doing curbside pickup. Northeast and Southeast only offered curbside pickup on Saturday. The City of Reading is closing from January 19 – January 31 due to the increase in Covid cases. Melissa advocated for the library to remain open following the Covid protocols we have in place. The new District Consultant is scheduled to start on January 31, 2022.

Library Services: No Report.

Facilities: No Report. Michel Micozzi mentioned that the security cameras for all locations were received but we do not have an install date yet.

Finance: Alan Carman stated he is still working on the Investment Policy and will schedule a meeting before next month.

Personnel: No Report. Renee Dietrich suggested that the Director share goals so that next December the committee is prepared during her annual review.

Advancement: Nancy Campbell stated that the Advancement Team did an excellent job this year. Overall, we received \$604,443 in grants and support. The annual appeal raised 42,227 to date and originally had a goal of \$35,000. Marketing is increasing its use of Instagram. Keith inquired about the dates of Cocktails and Classics this year. Zelda Yoder responded that the committee is looking at September 30. Celebrity Bartender will be in the spring.

Unfinished Business: Dennis Skayhan had asked if all trustees would consider to continuing serving on their respective committees and to contact him or Vicky Fuller with any changes. All chairmans were asked to consider serving in the same capacity for 2022.

Renee Dietrich reminded trustee to complete their Conflict of Interest forms and send them to Vicky Fuller.

Discussion on reimbursing Sherry Cameron for the gifts purchased on behalf of the board for Bronwen Gamble and Paul Hoh. Trustees will pay their portion directly to Sherry.

The board would also like to send Jim Shankweiler a gift thanking him for chairing the Executive Director Search Committee this year.

New Business: Motion to appoint the following library trustees; Renee Dietrich, Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, and Dennis Skayhan, to the Reading Public Library Foundation Board of Directors for a one year term in 2022 was made by Keith Mooney, seconded by Nancy Campbell. Approved.

Sherry Cameron will attend the BCPL Board meeting as our representative. The next meeting is February 16.

Zelda's trivia question: In 2018 during the summer ALA Conference in New Orleans, what resolution was read publicly? Answer: ALA's board released a resolution apologizing for its failure to speak out against the racist Jim Crow laws that kept many public libraries segregated until the 1960s.

Motion to adjourn was made by Alfonso Pena and seconded by Sherry Cameron. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller.



Scott Lindsey
Board Secretary