



September 20, 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, Dennis Skayhan, President, presiding.

Present: Dennis Skayhan, Sherry Cameron, Alan Carman, Scott Lindsay, Salvadore Sepulveda, Nancy Campbell, Chris Phillips, Ramone Turpin, Keith Mooney, Paul Hoh, Alba Fernandez, Zelda Yoder, Renee Dietrich, Alfonso Pena, Bronwen Gamble, Linda Capozello and Stephanie Williams.

Absent: Michel Micozzi, excused.

Guests: Marissa Guidara, Jesse Royer, Joie Formando

Public Comment: Joie Formando, Teen Loft Coordinator gave an overview of activities in youth services.

Minutes: Motion to approve the June minutes was made by Zelda Yoder and seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips mentioned that the Tigh endowment payment was received, as well as the grant for year two from the Cameron-Schrier Foundation for \$100,000. The District payment as well as quarterly County payments were also received. There are no unusual expenses.

Motion to accept the June, July, and August Treasurer's reports was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Alan Carman. Accepted.

Director's Report: Stephanie Williams reported there are three county libraries without directors in place as well as staffing challenges. The second virtual session is scheduled for Wednesday October 6 from 6:30-8 PM which will be Best Practices for Governance Trustee Training and Recruitment.

Bronwen reported Summer@RPL. Ten weeks of programs, some were virtual, 2700 in attendance. 2600 Go Packs were distributed. Four American Rescue Act fund proposals are being drafted to include training seniors on the use of iPads for telehealth appointments, digitizing contents in the PA room, and boosting Wi-Fi around all four library buildings, and technology for adult programming. Fine free was implemented and we received a \$5000 grant from the Wyomissing Foundation to assist in waiving lost and damaged book fees. This will be used on an in person basis. CARES funding was also received.

Library Services: No Report

Facilities: Salvadore Sepulveda reported that the Southeast meeting room passed inspection. Some items including furniture are on backorder. Wednesday, October 13th from 5-6:30 will be the Grand Opening of the meeting room. The fire suppression system at the Main library is almost completed.

Finance: Alan Carman mentioned that a Finance Committee meeting was held prior to the board meeting. The 2020 audit by Herbein + Company has been completed. Motion to approve the 2020 library audit was made by Chris Phillips and seconded by Romana Turpin. Approved.

Funding to cover health insurance library reimbursements was discussed with finance personnel from the City. Additional funding for building improvements and insurance expenses will be added to the budget for next year.

Personnel: No Report

Advancement: Nancy Campbell mentioned that we are 10 days away from Cocktails and Classics and the committee is doing a phenomenal job. Currently we have raised \$72,375. She asked for support from the board by means of bottles of wine for baskets as well as invites for attendance. The Fund in Need will be for laptops for teens at all the branches and chairs that have tablet tables mounted on them. The goal is \$8000.

Strategic Planning: Paul Hoh reported that the staff is formulating final thoughts. We have an infographic tool for the community to use. A meeting will be planned and announced soon. Paul commented that he will be resigning from the board at the end of December. He suggested the board make recommendations for a City appointee so that they can approved the person in October. He gave a very grateful speech.

Unfinished Business: The County Membership Agreement and System Automation Agreement was discussed. Motion to accept the agreements was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Alan Carman. Accepted.

Dennis Skayhan mentioned that he would like to start to meet in person for board meetings, even if a hybrid systems with Zoom plus in person.

New Business: None.

Zelda Yoder's Trivia Question: The Library of Congress pays to reproduce popular magazines in braille. What magazine sparked a congressional fight in 1985 as Senators lobbied against its inclusion which resulted in a buy stoppage but is still published in braille by the Library of Congress to this day. (US District Court overturned the ban as it violated the 1st Amendment). Playboy magazine.

Executive session: Motion to enter into executive session was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Paul Hoh. Approved.

Entered into Executive session at 5:40 and ended at 5:55. Motion to exit meeting was made Nancy Campbell and seconded by Alan Carman. Approved

Motion to adjourn general meeting made by Nancy Campbell and seconded by Alan Carman Approved.



Sherry Cameron,
Board Secretary