



March 20, 2023

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

Present: Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, Renee Dietrich, Michel Micozzi, Ramona Turner-Turpin, Felix Pena, Salvadore Sepulveda, Sherry Cameron, Keith Mooney, Nancy Campbell, Zelda Yoder, Melissa Adams, Becky Wanamaker, Marissa Guidara, Linda Capozello and Vicky Fuller.

Absent: Julia Becker, Excused.

Guests: Kaitlin Daley

Public Comment: None

Introduction of Kaitlin Daley who will be appointed by the city to the board on March 27.

Minutes: Motion to approve the February 2023 minutes was made by Zelda Yoder and seconded by Salvadore Sepulveda. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips discussed the \$300k in revenue as well as expenses being in alignment. Electronic databases are paid all at once annually. Maintenance expenses are high due to cleaning contracts as well as landscaping and mulching at Main and the branches. Investments were up this month. Motion to accept the February 2023 Treasurer's Report was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Michel Micozzi. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported that city council approved the \$199,580 to fund two years of the Digital Literacy program and Instructor position. We are starting the interview process this week. Dalai Galvis has been hired and started today as the Bilingual Paraprofessional position for the Reference Department. The grant received from Truist is funding this position. Damien Horn started on March 13 as the Archival Intern. Several staff were trained on how to use the new scanner and the Digitization of the PA Room has officially started. We are still working on filling the open Librarian II position. The HVAC/generator project is ongoing. We are waiting on a decision about the location of the gas line. We are working on a partnership project with COCA for a Health to Go vending machine. The project is still in the early stages. COCA is looking at a few locations in the City, so we are waiting to see if they would like to go forward with it at RPL. A new pilot project funded by a United Way grant, in partnership with the Food Trust, and with assistance from Public Works is underway. We will be installing a small food pantry with refrigerator (for perishable foods) outside the front of the Southeast Branch. This will increase access to healthy food options for City residents. Programming on nutrition, healthy recipes, etc., will also be coordinated around the new initiative.

Becky Wanamaker reported for the district. Reading and BCPL are partnering with PANO to provide a workshop for all trustees and library directors and encourages everyone to participate if able. "Planning and Leading Effective Board Meetings" will be Thursday April 20. It will be available virtually at 6 PM, or an in-person watch party is available starting at 5 PM. Contact Becky with any questions. Flyers are available.

Marissa Guidara reported that Library Days program is expanding with new partners. Library days are special events where library patrons from across Berks can enjoy and explore community organizations free by showing their library card or as part of our library group. This offers a unique opportunity for libraries to help connect families to a new opportunity they may not have otherwise tried or considered. The next Library Day at the Reading Science Center will be held on April 5 at 10 AM, Berks Nature on May 9 at 10 AM, and the Berks Heritage Center on July 27 at 10 AM.

Library Services: No Report. Next meeting will be March 27 at the Foundation building.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi reported that the Northeast meeting room is complete. Technology has been installed and the building permit signed. Furniture was delivered and assembled. An open house is scheduled for March 29 from 5-630 PM.

Finance: Chris Phillips reported that the committee has started working on a banking RFP. The met Thursday March 15 and are working towards having a recommendation by the September Board meeting.

Personnel: No Report. Keith Mooney will be scheduling a meeting.

Strategic Planning: No Report. Felix Pena stated he needed volunteers to serve on the committee.

Advancement: Nancy Campbell reported that we have received \$41,500 in donations and grants to date, \$3000 were memorial donations for Paul Hoh. Celebrity Bartender has been moved to Wednesday, May 17. It remains at Saucony Creek Franklin Station and that we currently have four bartenders. The planned giving meeting was held this month with discussions on how to set up endowments and such. The Open House for the Northeast Branch Meeting Room will be this Wednesday. Nancy requested board members attend. Dr. Marcus is very impressed with what we have done with the meeting rooms.

Linda Capozello discussed that the PA Humanities Council asked for video of Artists in Residency. RAIN poetry employs local poets to teach young students to write poetry. Reading is one of four cities in Pennsylvania that has been chosen to highlight this program. The Parrot Head Club of Reading is considering the library as a partner for one of their two events this year. RPL would receive the proceeds from the event. We would be asked to sell at least 25 tickets, assist with finding sponsors, as well as auction donations. Volunteers would also be needed. This event would take place June 24 at the Beverly Hills Tavern.

Unfinished Business: None

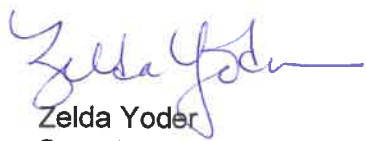
New Business: Alan will be on vacation during the next meeting. Keith Mooney will run the April meeting.

Zelda's trivia: Since 2005, Get It Loud in Libraries is an initiative to have musician play in libraries to bring patrons in after hours. What pop star performed live in her hometown library in Lancaster, England in 2007?

Answer: Adele

Motion to adjourn was made by Renee Dietrich, seconded by Chris Phillips. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,


Zelda Yoder
Secretary