



May 15, 2023

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

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

Absent: Sherry Cameron, Excused.

Guests: None

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Motion to approve the April 2023 minutes was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Salvadore Sepulveda. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips reviewed receipts and expenses, noting the increase in receipts was due to quarterly income and ARPA funds that were received in April. The 4Q city reimbursement bill was paid in May. The investments continue to record gains monthly. Motion to accept the April 2023 Treasurer's Report was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Felix Pena. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported on the HVAC/generator project. UGI is having difficulty finding a satisfactory entry to route the new gas line. The current plan is to reroute the line under the sidewalk across the street at the historic Elks building being renovated before coming under Franklin Street to the library. The line would turn up at the new gas equipment proposed to be located in the large planting box adjacent to the North side of the parking lot. UGI cannot perform the actual design until further demolition work is done at the Elks building which is scheduled for the winter. The earliest a design could be ready is December. Regarding the lawsuit RPL was mentioned in against the Parking Authority and the City of Reading. We have been excused from the case. The Community Refrigerator and pantry Grand Opening at the Southeast Branch will be Monday June 5 at 11 AM. The planters in front of the main library will be replaced with new plants this week. One of the two Librarian II positions has been filled by Melissa Haderlie. She will start on June 5.

Becky Wanamaker mentioned that they were finishing up with the new director cohort/mentorship program. New Directors were matched with a mentor to help with support and guidance in their new roles. The Overdrive merger is also complete and Wyomissing and Oley libraries are now full members with full access to the district e-materials platform.

Marissa Guidara facilitated the first Library Day program at the Berks Nature Center and had over 150 patrons attend from all over Berks County. Families were able to attend for Free, kicking off their visit with a story from a librarian and then go on an educator-led hike, play in the Nature Play Zone as well as explore gardens and trails.

Library Services: No Report

Facilities: No Report

Finance: Chris Phillips reported the RFP cut off for questions was today at 1 PM. The RFP is due by June 15. We will be posting RFP questions and answers on our website prior to May 30.

Personnel: No Report. Keith Mooney states he would hopefully have a recommendation by next month.

Strategic Planning: No Report

Advancement: Nancy Campbell mentioned that the Summer @ RPL solicitation letters will be going out shortly. A presentation on our new logos will be held next month. We received a unrestricted gift for RPL from Barley Snyder. Celebrity Bartender will be this Wednesday at Saucony Creek Franklin Station from 5-8 PM. We have raised over \$12,000 to date and proceeds will to the Artist in Residency programs for all four library locations. The Cocktails and Classics committee had their first meeting. The event will be held again at the Doubletree but the time has been extended by 30 minutes allowing more time between silent and live auctions. Parrot Daze will be Saturday, June 24 at Chapel Hill Golf Course. Linda Capozello has tickets for purchase. Nancy reminded the trustees that each should either make a donation as a sponsor or bring in an auction item. Volunteers from 4-9 PM are still needed, please email Linda. Also, the RPL Foundation sent a donation to BCCF West Reading Disaster Recovery Fund in acknowledgement for all the support that we have received from the RM Palmer company over the last several years.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Melissa Adams mentioned that the PA Library Association is advocating for library boards to stand in solidarity against book banning. Unite Against Book Bans is a national initiative to empower readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship. Pennsylvania Library Association is state partner.

Motion by Keith Mooney for RPL to join Unite Against Book Bans as a local partner, seconded by Ramona Turner Turpin. Approved.

Zelda's trivia: What is the most circulated item in our collection of Library of Things?

Answer: Southeast's ice cream maker. The second is a cordless drill set, and the third is a pickle-ball set.

Motion to adjourn was made by Zelda Yoder, seconded by Ramona Turner Turpin. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Zelda Yoder
Secretary