



May 20, 2024

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

Present: Nancy Campbell, Renee Dietrich, Salvadore Sepulveda, Michel Micozzi, Kaitlin Daley, Felix Pena, Zelda Yoder, Anthony Orozco, Keith Mooney, Sherry Cameron, Jerry Richter, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller.

Absent: Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, Julia Becker, Warren Weik. Excused.

Guests: Marissa Guidara, Carolyn Spano and Molly Robbins from BCCF.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: Motion to approve the April minutes was made by Salvadore Sepulveda and seconded by Michel Micozzi. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Renee Dietrich read a report written by Alan Carman. Revenue is over budget due to receiving 2023 District funds in January 2024. This also caused the expenses to be over budget due to the delay in paying City payroll expenses as well. Funds borrowed from Janney Investments in 2023 have been fully returned as of May 15. Motion to accept the April Treasurer's Report was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Zelda Yoder. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported that she and Emily met with Representative Manny Guzman to discuss increasing the PA Public Library Subsidy by 4% and other grant opportunities. Particular focus for Rep. Guzman's office is on computers, Wi-Fi and other digital projects. Carolyn has already applied for one of the grants - \$75,000 for computers. Earth Day celebration was great with over 347 children / families visiting our table. We are currently advertising to fill two positions: a Youth Services Coordinator for the NE branch, and a Youth Services Supervisor for Main. In April we conducted an audit of the main library youth department to address some concerns and recent situations. After the audit, we created an action plan to address the concerns, which will include restructuring of the departments, coaching, training opportunities and follow up meetings with members from the department. We have been experiencing higher than expected vandalism at the City Park Storywalk. After discussion with staff and the Wyomissing Foundation who funded the project, we have decided not to install the second Storywalk and 3rd and Spruce. Remaining supplies and funds will be used to keep the City park walk as nice as possible. Several board members and I attended the BCPL system board meeting regarding the proposed Facilities Policy draft. We expressed our concerns about the policy and the board seemed receptive to reevaluating some aspects of the policy's wording. We had the judging for the pride Library Card Artwork Contest and are excited for the unveiling on June 1.

The District report was provided prior to the board meeting. Marissa Guidara highlighted their upcoming district wide EDI program, Celebrating Our Stories at the Wyomissing Public Library on June 15 from 1-4 PM. This program is led by local author, Robin Gow.

Library Services: No Report.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi reported the committee met on April 26 and discussed the layout and location for the training area in the children's department.

Finance: Renee Dietrich read the report provided by Chris Phillips. The committee met on May 8 to discuss the allocation of funds from the Helen Roberts bequest. These funds are unrestricted. The recommendation from the committee is to utilize \$50,000 to fund the endowment at BCCF. The Snyder funds will remain with RPL and utilized for its restrict use as projects arise. The committee will meet in the future to discuss the allocation of the remaining funds from the Roberts bequest.

Motion to use \$50,000 from the Helen Roberts bequest to fund the BCCF endowment, in lieu of the originally proposed Snyder funds, by Renee Dietrich, seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Molly Robbins from BCCF gave a synopsis of how the endowment will work. Donations would be received by RPLF and forwarded to BCCF as determined. The RPLF would receipt any donations received directly, BCCF would receipt any donations they received directly. The endowment will distribute 4.5% annually to RPLF.

Renee Dietrich presented Molly Robbins with the signed agreement and check for \$50,000.

Personnel: No report.

Strategic Planning: No Report

Advancement: The Giorgio Foundation approved our grant request of \$50,000. Orphans of Oddfellows gifted us \$25,000 to use towards programming and an event that aligns with their mission. Carolyn Spano reported that Celebrity Bartender has raised almost \$18,000. We ask the bartenders to raise \$2500 each prior to the event, which they all had. Saucony Creek Franklin Station stated we had about 165-170 in attendance. June 11th will be our Cultivation event at the library. There will be staging for programs.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Kaitlin Daley commented that the RFP for a new solicitor committee met and they have received template from other libraries. The RFP will be drafted and sent out by June 15 with a due date of August 15. The committee plans to review and make a recommendation by the September board meeting.

Zelda's Trivia. The Haskell Free Library and Opera House is sometimes called the only US Library that has no books. But they do have books. How is this possible?

Answer: The building straddles Quebec, Canada and Vermont, and all the books are stored on the Canadian side however, the entrance is located on the US side.

Patrons from Canada are allowed to enter without needing to report to customs provided they return to Canada upon leaving the building. Their collection contains books in English and French. English books titled on the spine read top to bottom, while books in French are titled from bottom to top.

Motion to adjourn was made by Felix Pena and seconded by Keith Mooney. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Kaitlin Daley
Secretary