



September 16, 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, Michel Micozzi, Kaitlin Daley, Felix Pena, Zelda Yoder, Keith Mooney, Sherry Cameron, Jerry Richter, Alan Carman, Chris Phillips, Julia Becker, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller.

Absent: Warren Weik, Salvadore Sepulveda, Anthony Orozco. Excused.

Guests: Marissa Guidara, Becky Wanamaker, and Carolyn Spano.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: Motion to approve the June 2024 Minutes was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Felix Pena. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Alan reviewed the Treasurer's reports and pointed out that we received the District Funds as well as a grant for \$50,000 for purchase of new computers. Motion to accept the June, July and August 2024 Treasurer's Reports was made by Renee Dietrich and seconded by Chris Phillips. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported that the Office of Commonwealth Libraries is leading a statewide assessment of the role of libraries using a collective impact approach representing the views of individuals, library leaders and staff and other stakeholders. Melissa was invited to serve on the Steering Committee for this Assessment of Collective Impact and will attend approximately 7 sessions over the next year.

We installed an indoor garden tower at the Southeast branch funded by the Food Trust. The tower builds from the Community Fridge and pantry and provides fresh herbs and vegetables such as parsley, cilantro, beans and more. Classes with the Food Trust will also be provided in conjunction with this garden.

We were approached by KIMBER, a PA nonprofit organization committed to working with communities, government, schools, businesses and other nonprofits to advance digital inclusion and sustainable innovation, to collaborate with them on the NTIA Digital Equity Competitive Grant to develop a digital navigator ecosystem in PA. They wanted to partner with an organization or two to tackle the Berks County area for this project. We will be their only partner. This NTIA grant is for \$12 million, and if they succeed in receiving full funding, will award us \$568,247 spread over 4 years from 2026-2029. This will potentially allow us to fund our current digital navigator position in the future as well as hire another one to have more reach.

Becky Wannamaker discussed the focus for tomorrow's District Professional Training at BCPL is Leadership Skills and Cultivating Positive Library Culture.

Marissa Guidara announced that the Reading for Pets program was successful and the dog chosen from the partnership with the Animal Rescue League was adopted. Library Day at Berks Nature had over 100 participants.

Library Services: No report. Committee will meet on October 2 with a goal to have updated policies for the November meeting.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi reported that he is waiting on drawings of how to configure the donated cubicles so that we can have five employees occupy the current office space housing three. Melissa mentioned that she met with Bethany regarding charging stations and Main, Northeast and Southeast. Bethany is applying for several energy grants for the city.

Finance: The committee did not meet, but Chris has met with Melissa and discussed the preliminary budget for 2025. Chris will be sending out a notice for a committee meeting prior to the next board meeting.

Personnel: Keith Mooney mentioned the committee met on September 13 and discussed changes to the travel policies.

Strategic Planning: No report but the committee is vetting consultants for next year's Strategic Planning meeting as well as discussions regarding education reimbursements.

Advancement: Renee Dietrich stated that we have raised \$284,856 YTD which is 52,000 more than this time last year. The Library has met with officers of the Library Company and stated will be taking on additional duties from the group. The annual meeting is scheduled on November 12 at the Foundation building.

Renee thanked everyone for bringing whiskey/wine bottles for the Cocktails and Classics raffle. Carolyn reported that so far we have \$87,000 in sponsors and tickets to date. We are expecting about 300 in attendance. The auctioneer will be Mark Caltagirone from Herbein + Co. So far, the process is running smoothly.

Kimberly Servello retired in July and we hired Alison Kleinsmith who is very social media savvy and familiar with Constant Contact. Our parking lot post on Facebook reached over 35,000 and a paid ad on Facebook reached of 7500 people in our chosen demographic.

Unfinished Business: Kaitlin Daley reported that we received two RFPS and will be interviews with each will be scheduled.

New Business: Alan Carman presented another check from the Parrot Head Club for \$2500, which were delayed funds from the previous event.

Nancy Campbell thanks the staff and board for the hard work they have contributed.

Zelda's Trivia Question: The first "eBook" was release in 1971 when Michael stern Hart typed a document into Xerox Sigma V computer at the University of Illinois. It is available via project Gutenberg. What is the content of this first eBook?

Answer: The Declaration of Independence. The actual computer, produced in 1967 is in the Computer History museum and it cost \$300,000 in 1967.

Motion to adjourn was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Alan Carman. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,


Kaitlin Daley
Secretary