

January 27, 2025



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, Kaitlin Daley, Michel Micozzi, Salvadore Sepulveda, Felix Pena, John Nelka, Jerry Richter, Keith Mooney, Julia Becker, Sherry Cameron, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller

Absent: Warren Weik and Anthony Orozco. Excused

Guests: Becky Wanamaker and Carolyn Spano.

Public Comment: Introduced John Nelka as a new board member.

Minutes: Motion to approve the December minutes was made by Chis Phillips and seconded by Michel Micozzi. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips highlighted the passport revenue as a new revenue stream in 2024. Advancement exceeded their monetary goals for 2024. He also explained the transfers in and out of the library's investments. The returns on our investments are higher than the transfers to the general fund. The expenses reported are as expected. Motion to accept the December 2024 Treasurer's Report was made by Salvadore Sepulveda and seconded by Julia Becker. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported that we submitted an application for a Carnegie grant, but was not selected to move on to the next category. Staff are working on several grant projects this year. The Rain Poetry project with have children poetry workshops and three installations throughout the city. The Covid-19 Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity Device Grant issued us 40 laptops for digital navigation. We were awarded the United Way early Literacy grant and the Home for Orphans of Oddfellows grant of 117,000 over 5 years will allow us to renovate the children's area and provide life skills programs for kids K-12 that focus on Culinary, Handwork, and Construction. We also received written confirmation that the City will no longer require us to reimburse for city paid staff health benefits. The BCPL Awards Ceremony will be held March 5th at 6:30 PM. We have several submissions and have a good chance at winning a few of them. New Trustee Orientations have been scheduled. All trustees are required to attend orientation within one year of their appointment.

Becky Wanamaker referred to the Library District report that was sent prior to the meeting. They are working on new initiatives for the upcoming year.

Library Services: No Report. We do need a chairman for this committee.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi reported that they picked up the donated furniture from Alvernia and delivered pieces to both the Main and Southeast library.

Finance: No Report.

Personnel: No Report. Keith Mooney stated he would schedule a meeting to discuss the Director's goals for 2025.

Strategic Planning: Julia Becker reported that they reviewed the submitted proposals and conducted interviews with potential candidates. It was unanimous amongst committee members and staff to choose Strategic Planning Solutions who has worked with Tower Health and is familiar with the Reading area. The fee is negotiable. Motion by Julia Becker to approve Strategic Planning Solutions as consultants for our Strategic Plan, seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Advancement: Carolyn Spano reported that they exceeded their Annual Appeal goal of \$55,000 by over \$9,000. They are working on the Loyalty Society as well as the PAGES gratitude report, which will be released in March.

Staff are working on combining all social media used by branches to one account. Cocktails and Classics is scheduled for September and they will be touring other venues for this year's event.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: We have several vacancies on various committees. Please consider serving on more than one committee.

Please note that the board meeting for April will be held at the Southeast Branch and the October meeting at Northeast.

Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC, requires a resolution to add new check signers to the investment account. Chris Phillips made the motion to approve Alan Carman, President, Kaitlin Daley as Vice President, himself as Treasurer, and Melissa Adams as Library Director as the 2025 check signers. Seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Salvadore Sepulveda asked the trivia question. "Who gave \$100,000 in 1910 to support building the library?" The answer is Andrew Carnegie. In today's funds that would be the equivalent of 3.3 million dollars.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kaitlin Daley and seconded by Julia Becker. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Michel Micozzi
Secretary