

March 17, 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, Kaitlin Daley, Michel Micozzi, Salvador Sepulveda, Jerry Richter, Keith Mooney, Sherry Cameron, Warren Weik, Anthony Orozco, Arielle Phillips-Law, John Nelka, Julia Becker and Melissa Adams.

**Absent:** Chris Phillips, Felix Pena. Excused

**Guests:** Marissa Guidara and Carolyn Spano.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the February minutes was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Kaitlin Daley. Approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Alan Carman reported on behalf of Chris Phillips that most of the February expenses were contributed to payroll. Investments for the month were doing well, but the forecast for March was grim. Motion to accept the February Treasurer's report was made by Warren Weik and seconded by Salvador Sepulveda. Accepted.

**Director's Report:** Melissa Adams stated that RPL received two awards at the BCPL Awards Ceremony on March 3. Michel Micozzi received the Trustee of the Year award and RPL received the Outstanding Teen Program award for our Driving Simulation program. We have received confirmation for the PDJ Job Training and Education Program grant for \$75,000. This will allow us to complete the project of replacing all the computers in the library. We are also excited to announce the return of the free daytime ESL classes at Northeast on Tuesday and Thursday from 10-11:30 AM. The classes will run from March 18 until May 29. No registration is necessary. This program is in partnership with the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks. The Facebook post regarding RPL not collaborating with Reading Pride for another library card contest was removed. Our response to the post was positive in nature and there was never an agreement to continue to do art contests beyond the first year. Trustees were encouraged to reach out to their legislators regarding the elimination of funding to IMLS. Although we do not receive direct funding, the IMLS does play a part in covering the expenses of library catalog software.

Marissa Guidara reported for the District. She mentioned plans have been finalized for the EDI Program Reimbursement opportunity for all libraries in the district. She also met with training partners on a future EDI project. She arranged for a tour of the Abilities in Motion facility, they serve the disabled community and are in need of help in rural areas.

**Library Services:** No Report.

**Facilities:** Michel Micozzi reported they have started reviewing the third floor kitchen project. Cabinet height, countertops, flooring and sink requirements are being addressed. Staff have been moving items from shelves and relocating to other areas to accommodate the project.

**Finance:** No Report.

**Personnel:** Keith Mooney mentioned that the Director's goals for 2025 were sent out for review prior to the board meeting.

Motion to accept the Director's goals for 2025 was made by Alan Carman and seconded by Julia Becker. Accepted.

**Strategic Planning:** There were discussions with Strategy Solutions regarding planning a board retreat, but instead of trying to schedule it at the meeting, Julia decided to send out a poll after the meeting.

**Advancement:** Carolyn Spano announced that the Advancement Committee has three new members. PAGES are at the printers and there is a separate one page insert from Renee. Kimberton Round Up is going very well. Carolyn is also meeting with Lisa Fulmer to discuss Summer@RPL. We have confirmed three bartenders for our Celebrity Bartender event on May 14 at Saucony Creek Franklin station. Our kickoff meeting for Cocktails and Classics will be April 1. Alison compiled all of our social media data, which shows significant growth.

**Unfinished Business:** A draft of the Law Library Agreement was sent to the county. They acknowledge it was received it but they have not yet responded. Keith Mooney had questions regarding the municipal ordinances and how they would be maintained and at what time would they be stored off-site. John Nelka was able to provide some answers but it was noted that we may need to get some clarification on past procedures and possibly develop new ones.

**New Business:**

Salvador Sepulveda asked the trivia question. What is the longest novel ever written and how many words does it contain? Answer from the Guinness Book of World Records, the novel is *In Search of Lost Time* (aka *Remembrance of Things Past*) by Marcel Proust. It was first published in 1913. It contains 1.2 million words, 7 volumes and is 4800 pages.

The April 21 board meeting will be held at the Southeast Branch. Please considering bringing an item for the Food Pantry. They are in need of canned goods, rice and beans, toilet paper, milk, butter, juice and fruit.

Executive Session was held.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michel Micozzi  
Secretary