



May 19, 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, Jerry Richter, Sherry Cameron, Anthony Orozco, Julia Becker, Chris Phillips, Felix Pena, Arielle Phillips-Law, Julia Becker, Keith Mooney, Rick Perez, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller.

**Absent:** Warren Weik, Salvador Sepulveda and John Nelka. Excused

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

Alan Carman introduced Rick Perez to the board.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the April minutes was made by Chris Phillips and seconded by Jerry Richter. Approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Chris Phillips reported there was nothing new on the income side and that we have paid invoices for city salaries. At this time we are watching our cash flow but may need to transfer funds to cover payables in June if we are delayed receiving the Tigh fund distribution. Motion to accept the April Treasurer's report was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Julia Becker. Accepted.

**Director's Report:** Melissa Adams reported that Administration is working through six personnel issues, the new strategic plan, the law library project and several grants. We have filled the Librarian II position and have one staff member scheduled to go out on an extended leave of absence in June. We will be posting a job opening for a temporary library assistant shortly to help with coverage. The SE Community Fridge had about 570 visitors. Providing Hope (community partner) dropped off donations on Tuesdays and there were several other anonymous individual donations as well. We will be soliciting donations and survey info about the fridge via a suggestion box and still working on another location for it. The current location is due to the work on the ADA door project. We have received the letter of compliance from BCPL>.

Marissa Guidara reported for the District that planning for Summer Reading is underway. Assistance to District libraries varies by location. They will be promoting the pet adoption through the Humane Society based on number of books read for the third year in a row.

**Library Services:** No Report.

**Facilities:** Michel Micozzi reported the committee did not meet, but RPL staff had made selections for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor project that starts later this summer.

**Finance:** No Report.

**Personnel:** No Report

**Strategic Planning:** Julia Becker reported that interviews with staff were successful, focus groups were scheduled for May 28, the public survey has been sent out and the Board retreat will be June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Upland Building on the Alvernia campus.

**Advancement:** Carolyn reported Celebrity Bartender was a huge success. We had a goal of \$15,000 and we raised over \$20,000 which is the most we have ever received from this event. There was approximately 250 people in attendance. We received the \$75,000 grant we applied for thru Manny Guzman's office. We are currently working on Cocktails and Classics with sponsorship mailings going out soon. Carolyn also

mentioned that we received several memorial donations in memory of Chris Shinn who was a city resident and avid reader.

**Unfinished Business:** We are still in negotiations concerning the Law Library.

**New Business:** None

Trivia Question by Felix: When was the first public library in the Americas established and where is it located?

Answer: 1646 and located in Puebla, Mexico. It was founded by Bishop Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, who donated his private collection of 5,000 books to a local religious college. The condition of the donation was that the books be available to anyone who could read, not just academics.

Motion to adjourn was made by Anthony Orozco and seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Michel Micozzi  
Secretary