

September 15, 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, Leo Hanley, Julia Becker, Chris Phillips, Felix Pena, Arielle Phillips-Law, Keith Mooney, Salvador Sepulveda, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller.

Absent: Warren Weik & Rick Perez Excused. Anthony Orozco, Unexcused.

Guests: Becky Wanamaker, Marissa Guidara and Carolyn Spano.

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Motion to approve the June minutes was made by Keith Mooney and seconded by Salvador Sepulveda. Approved

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips reviewed the Treasurer's Report discussing income and expenses. Motion to accept the June, July and August Treasurer's report was made by Kaitlin Daley and seconded Felix Pena. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa Adams reported that we are currently accepting applications for some part-time position as two staff members have submitted their resignations to pursue other opportunities. Additionally, a city staff member moved up taking the vacant Librarian III position so now we are working to fill a Librarian II position. The Law Library project with the County is no longer moving forward. BCPL is celebrating National Library Card Sign-Up Month, by partnering with local businesses to expand the money-saving power of your library card. By showing your library card you can receive a special deal/discount on your purchasing at participating businesses. For the month of September there will be 10 extra checkouts available in Hoopla virtual streaming app. The front steps of the Main building have been repaired and the building has been power washed. The front door has also been painted, as well as the railings in the front and rear of the building. The Oddfellows grant construction work in the Main children's department is completed and looks fantastic. Food for Thought and two new programs: Fiber Friends and Build it will be added this fall with more planned in 2026. The final Rain Poetry reveal celebration was held on Saturday, September 13th at the 6th Ward Block Party at Lauer's Park Elementary. The Rain Poetry books are completed and we will be able to hand them out to the children that participated, the public, as well as adding some to the collection. Another Rain Poetry event will be in Harrisburg later this month where 5 poems from each of the Rain Poetry cities will be placed on the sidewalk in front of the state library. We are now a designated "Safe Place" for youth in crisis. Our Annual Halloween Base will be held on Saturday, October 25 from 10-2, with the Reading Philharmonic, crafts, food, trick or treating, cosplayers, parade and costume contests.

Becky Wanamaker, District Consultant, mentioned there was no movement on the State budget as of today's meeting. Marissa Guidara, District Youth Services, facilitated the EDI committee meeting last month as the group is planning 3 major fall programs.

Library Services: The committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow, Tuesday, September 16 at the Foundation building with Zoom link if needed.

Facilities: Michel Micozzi met with Melissa and other staff at Penske to select furniture that was being donated. Selections were delivered to the main library. The third floor kitchen project is completed.

Finance: Chris Phillips discussed that the custodian position will be replaced with a cleaning service. So those payroll expenses will cover the addition to maintenance under operating expenses. The state has changed the 12% collection expenditure from current year to prior year. This will cause an increase of

\$60,000 to be spent on the collection this year that was not previously budgeted. With the delay of the state budget, District funding payout of \$362,000 is still on hold by the state. With the increase in expense and the delays to our revenue Chris Phillips made the motion to take an additional \$300,000 from investments, seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Note: A roll call vote was sent by email on June 30th to approve the 2024 Audit. The motion to approve the audit was made by Chris Phillips and seconded by Alan Carman. We received 13 replies in favor, 2 no reply given. Approved.

Personnel: No Report

Strategic Planning: Julia Becker provided the Strategic Plan Action Steps that were previously emailed. These were reviewed in detail. Motion to adopt the Strategic Plan goals, mission and vision statements was made by Julia Becker and seconded by Kaitlin Daley. Adopted.

Advancement: Carolyn Spano reported that we received over \$18,000 from the Summer Learning Loss mailing. We also received a donation from Lisa Fulmer to cover Science Explorers in 2026. Cocktails and Classics ticket sales are coming in daily. We are done about \$15,000 in from 2 sponsors. George Miller has agreed to be our auctioneer for the event. The Cultivation Event, *A Novel Evening*, will be November 18 at 4:30 PM. *PAGES*, our newsletter will be mailed after Cocktails and Classics. We continue to have great success with our marketing and social media.

Unfinished Business: At this time the Law Library will not move to the Main Library.

New Business: Alan Carman references the adopted Strategic Plan which includes having a Governance Committee which will replace the Nominating Committee going forward. Meetings to follow. The Investment portion of the Treasurer's Report references two Board designated funds. One for capital improvements and the other for major library projects.

Motion was made by Keith Mooney to free the funds of any self-imposed restrictions and rename the funds Unrestricted Fund 1 & 2, seconded by Julia Becker. Approved.

Trivia Question by Sal: In the American prison system, what is the most borrowed genre of books by prisoners. Answer: Paranormal Romance

Motion to adjourn was made by Chris Phillips and seconded by Julia Becker. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Michel Micozzi
Secretary