

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT
Minutes
June 9, 2021

Present: Jeanette Eleff, Wendy Emery, Ann Galm, Katie Lascola, Beth Mellor, Deborah Ormay, Heather Pletcher, Laurie Sliben

Absent: Shane Michael

Chair Laurie Sliben called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the May meeting. Katie moved the minutes be approved; Heather seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were approved.

The Board reviewed staff reports. Beth indicated there is a sense of hectic-ness among staff now that things are opening up. She monitors them to insure they do not feel overwhelmed. Per staff, people are coming into the Library as if nothing had happened. The cost to make a Grab 'n' Go bag is \$3.00. We have a grant from a New Kensington-based foundation which helps pay for those.

In-library programming will resume in September. The number of people in the building will be limited as will the number of attendees in programs. The Library will not be open every night.

Beth presented her report. The Board agreed that the candidate information sheet she shared via email was well done. It nicely summarizes our activities and funding. She will send it to the Oakmont and Verona borough council candidates. The Board talked about hosting a meet and greet for candidates. Gary Rogers was identified as a potential facilitator.

Beth described the relationship between our Friends of the Oakmont Library (FOOS) group and the Library. The Board agreed that it is time for us to meet with them once more.

Beth reported on her and Karen's meeting with Clarion University's library science professor, Xiao Feng Li, Ph.D. She will consult with us on setting up the maker space. Beth and Karen will attend the seminar "Maker Space in A Small Community" to get ideas for our library maker space. Dr. Li will assist with grant-writing to support the maker space development. Beth intends to hold a community open house for them to see our budding maker space. Community makers and artisans will be invited. The first focused module for the middle school students will be "Food Science." Beth explained the plan to build out the

maker space in the Red Oak Room in a way that the room can be divided. The maker space plan ties back to the community audit from 3 years ago.

Beth announced that ACLA Director, Marilyn Jenkins, plans to retire in September. ACLA is recruiting for her replacement. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is recruiting for a director. Last year libraries saw a 5% decrease in RAD funding. Marilyn will ask that the 5% be reinstated and will petition the RAD for an increase in funding due to brisk use of e-resources.

Laurie presented her report. She talked about board structure and continuing education, reminding Board members that they have to earn 1 hour of CEU credit each year of board membership. She noted we have informal committees. She mentioned an on-line document housing resource where we can store our bylaws, policies, information about board and library history, etc. There is also an on-line calendar we can use broken out by month and committee. She repeated that in December 2021 we will lose one board member and a second in December 2022. She suggested we should start recruiting late summer this year so we can have someone in place on 1/1/22.

Wendy reviewed the financial report. Salary costs have started to rise slightly. Donations made in Jerry Little's memory/honor continue to come in. Beth pointed out that she'll work with Chris Little to determine how she wants the Library to use those donations. It appears we will need to raise \$8000.00 this year through fund-raising. There is almost one million dollars in our endowment fund.

Jeanette talked about her outreach activities since the May board meeting. She spoke with Shirley Davis who runs the Twin Boros Ministry and the Verona United Methodist Church (UMC) Food Bank. Shirley is holding the summer camp, starting 6/15/21. There will be two groups at the camp: one doing outdoor activities and a second doing indoor activities. Shirley suggested that the Library can help with providing food, books, and programming. Katie will post the need for food on social media. Karen will take programs to the camp on Fridays. She already bought sidewalk chalk and bubbles. In the past, the Library offered information about healthy eating, food, and nutrition. Camp will end mid-August.

Jeanette talked with Trish Showalter, one of Verona Borough's newest council members. She asked about books for an Easter program. Jeanette went back to the group of 3 people she met with earlier this spring to get to know them better. Jeanette plans to have coffee with Rhoda Worf on Monday.

The Verona summer newsletter is coming out soon with a calendar of events and information about fund raising activities within the community. Verona's

150th year celebration is scheduled for September 18 from 2-8 p.m. The Library Board was asked to consider becoming involved in the events.

Beth told the Board that children from Verona feel very comfortable in the Library. The Library has provided food and coupons to the children in the past. The Library has even fed some adults.

Beth led the Board in a discussion about use of the endowment fund to transform the Red Oak Room into a full-fledged maker space. The room would be divided and would function as a multipurpose room. Beth will develop a wish list for the maker space in consultation with Library staff. She envisions the maker space opening in 2022. The challenge will be funding the infrastructure of the room.

Ann and Heather updated the Board regarding the food truck festival, "Truck on Down to the Library." The event will be Sunday, August 29 from 3-6 p.m. Ann will ask that Allegheny River Boulevard be blocked off from Pennsylvania Avenue to Library Place. The front of the Library will be open. We'll charge a flat fee (donation) to access the event instead of using a passbook system. \$10.00 donation was suggested; children under 5 would be free. To keep track of who paid, attendees will have their hands stamped. We will open the downstairs room so people can get out of the heat and eat.

Activities to promote the Library include:

- Having the Squirrel's Nest open;
- Story time;
- An area for auction items;
- An area where people can get library cards;
- A scavenger hunt for kids to look for the squirrels in the Library.

General activities include:

- Face painting;
- Balloon art;
- The Squirrel;
- Grab 'n' Go Bags;
- Bucket rides in a fire truck (tentative).

Two dessert food trucks have been identified. Several other food trucks have been contacted, and we're waiting to hear back from them about their participation. The trucks can park down on Allegheny River Boulevard.

Flyers will be put in local business storefronts. We will contact Michael DiVittorio to write articles about the event. We will print an article in the Oakmont newsletter. The cutoff date for Verona newsletter articles has passed, but there

may be a chance we could still get something in there. We ask that a local news channel will come out the day of.

Katie talked about Bikes for Books, which will be August 21. The online registration will soon be available. Beth will call Michael DiVittorio about this opportunity. Katie reminded the Board about the Virtual 5K, scheduled for 2nd-4th of July. Participants can do this anywhere. Registration is paperless. This year's theme is Red, White & Blue. Registrants post pictures of themselves wearing red, white and blue outfits on social media as they bike, hike, skate, swim, jog, or walk the 5K distance.

The annual Love Your Library campaign will be in September. We will receive a percentage of sales from Oakmont retailers for purchases made on a Saturday closer to the holiday season. The Oakmont Chamber of Commerce approved of this fund raiser.

There being no further business to discuss, Heather moved the meeting be adjourned; Wendy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. and went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ormay
Recording Secretary