

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT
Minutes
May 12, 2021

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

Chair Laurie Sliben called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. Katie moved the minutes be approved as amended. Ann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were approved as amended.

The Board reviewed staff reports. Beth described how Stephanie and Barbara are dividing their work. Stephanie's focus continues to be on ordering and cataloging materials and the 3D printer. Beth handed out some spice kits for an upcoming Spice It Up program on which Robin and Karen are collaborating.

Beth presented her report. The HVAC system needs major repairs (valve replacement), which necessitates a change in the Library's plan to replace the carpeting. The carpeting will be deep cleaned this year and replaced next year.

She reviewed the grants for which she recently applied and on what each grant focuses. One of the grants will allow us to have a social work intern from Pitt on site on a part time basis from September to March/April. Their salary will be paid by a foundation; the intern will work with Library staff. The social work intern's duties will be flexible. They will interact with patrons. They may map areas of community concern. They can assist patrons with signing up on line for particular benefits/opportunities. The program was so successful at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh that they now have a full time social worker as a member of their regular staff.

Beth will work with the Little family to carry out their wishes regarding the donations that have come to the Library in Jerry's name. The Board talked about the Oakmont Chamber's plan to promote local merchants donating a percentage of their sales on a given day/weekend to the Library during the annual Love Your Library campaign. Ann mentioned that the Riverview Women's Association held a similar fundraiser with great success. Deborah will follow up with Borough Council member Nancy Ride regarding plantings. The Board liked the idea of a plot filled with flowers that attract and sustain pollinating insects.

Shane asked about the Library's accessibility. Beth indicated that aisles are wide enough for wheelchairs. There are ramps and an elevator to assist people with mobility issues. The automatic doors were the last library feature to be updated. Updates can be paid for via accessibility grants.

Programming will resume in September. Scot Fodi knows someone who can perform the building assessment as well as a back-up person. The County libraries voted on materials quarantining. Most libraries will quarantine items for 24 hours. The Oakmont Library decided not to. Staff wear gloves and masks when checking in returned items and when preparing items for pick up in the lobby. The pick-up system will remain the same.

Laurie reported conversations she and Jeanette Eleff (Verona representative) have been sharing regarding how best to serve Verona's citizens. Board recruitment needs to be a major focus this year as we will have two openings at the end of 2021 and one opening in 2022. The Board discussed the value of library committees staffed by citizens rather than Board members. Committee involvement is a great recruitment tool. Laurie checked in with the newest Board members to see if they have enough information to be successful. Wendy suggested that she learns something new every month. Beth and Laurie will work on a strategic plan for board recruitment.

Wendy reviewed the financial report. Salary costs have not risen substantially. Monies spent on books and supplies has increased, and the Wells Fargo account is earning. The Library filed a 990 form which is required by the IRS that details our activities.

Jeanette distributed Verona community newsletters. This newsletter comes out 4 times a year. She reported talking with the Verona Community Group, who had no idea of all the services the Library provides. Jeanette will learn all she can about what's going on in Verona in terms of community activities and see how the Library may be able to help. Networking with Verona's community leaders will be key. We will highlight the services we provide to Verona. We can distribute information from the Library at various locations around Verona.

Ann lead the Board in a discussion regarding fund-raising, continuing with the idea of the food truck festival. Ann shared information she learned about how some food truck owners operate. She identified helpful resources in the community. There are two food trucks with Verona connections to whom she will reach out. Brkkee's and Kettle Corn are potential "dessert" providers. The Board identified August 29 as a potential date for the food truck festival. We will need sponsors. We will advertise in the Oakmont and Verona newsletters. This will be a family focused event. Potential activities may include corn hole,

scavenger hunt, face painting, story time, and perhaps a visit from the Oakmont squirrel.

The Board talked about Taste of Two Towns (ToTT). Board members reported people telling them that they miss this annual event, which is typically held the Sunday after Mother's Day. We will not have ToTT this year but will explore holding it in 2022.

Katie talked about Bikes for Books, which will be a Saturday afternoon in late August. She described the bike route and activities that take place at Riverside Park. Another active fund raiser is the Virtual 5K, scheduled for 4th of July weekend. Participants can do this anywhere. Registration is paperless. The theme this year is Red, White & Blue. Registrants post pictures of themselves in their red, white and blue outfits on social media. It seems that registrations increase the more pictures are shared.

There being no further business to discuss, Katie moved the meeting be adjourned; Ann seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ormay
Recording Secretary