

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT
Minutes
October 13, 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 September meeting. Heather 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. It was noted that Stephanie indicated in her report what she is currently reading. The Board agreed that that was a nice touch.

Beth presented her report. Monies are still coming in from the Love Your Library campaign. The Library received their first Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) check from the Federal government. Dave and Karen took classes on equality, diversity and inclusivity. Part of the class involved submitting a project for consideration of a grant. They won the initial grant and then won a secondary grant for the same project.

Staff attended the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) conference on equality, diversity, and inclusivity. This was the first time other staff were able to attend since the conference was given virtually. The theme was "Be My Neighbor." Staff want to implement strategies addressed in the conference. The Board talked about how poverty is a barrier for people who want to use the Library. One of the initiatives Oakmont Carnegie Library intends to adopt is the dropping of library fines. The topic will be discussed at upcoming staff meetings.

Laurie talked about her continuing efforts to create a repository of pertinent documents related to the Library and Board governance. She hopes to have them in one place by year's end. Laurie reminded the Board that we will vote on board officers in December. She distributed the board chair job description via email in advance of the meeting. The Board needs to replace 1 member at the end of this year and at least 3 members by the end of 2022.

Budget talks are starting now. Beth asked Lindsay Osterhout, our Borough Council Liaison, for a report.

Wendy reviewed the financial report. We are on par for the year and for our budget. The Bond payment came out in September. The interest debt is paid out in two separate payments. The endowment is doing well.

Regarding the Love Your Library campaign, this has been our most successful event to date. The Buncher Foundation will distribute matching funds across all of Allegheny County's libraries. Last year we were given 14¢ on the dollar. The Regional Asset District (RAD) will notify us in December how much money the Library will receive in 2022. The Wachter Foundation will give the Library an end of year donation. Another boost to our budget will come from alcohol sales and gaming activities, which is based on the County tax. The state is giving us more money, but the states decide how to divide the money from the Federal Government.

Jeanette shared that the 150th anniversary celebration for Verona was a success. She distributed the fall edition of the Verona newsletter.

The Board acknowledged receipt of 3 applications for board positions. Laurie wants to set up interviews at the end of October so that the new board member can fully participate in the January Board meeting.

The Board briefly discussed the roles of the Board officers. The Board will nominate officers in November and vote in December. Laurie noted that Deborah has decided to make 2021 her last year as board secretary.

The Board and Beth reviewed the strategic plan for 2022-2025, acknowledging those plan items from 2017-2019 which have been completed or remain ongoing. Beth will invite Library staff to review the modifications to the Plan suggested by the Board prior to finalizing the Plan for our review in December.

There being no further business to discuss, Deborah moved the meeting be adjourned; Heather seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ormay
Recording Secretary