

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT
Minutes
December 8, 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 6:36 p.m.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 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. Deborah asked about the funding for the book boxes. Beth indicated that the Wachter grant provides annual funding for outreach. The Library received an additional \$6,000.00 from ACLA to support services provided to Verona. Board members were pleased to see the return of the American Girl Dolls. They will be quarantined for a week prior to cleaning and return to circulation. Shane asked about the makerspace policies under development. Beth responded that the Board will review and approve the policies once they're completed. Stephanie and Karen have been reviewing State policies for guidance in development of our policies. The Board understands Robin's hesitation/frustration about resuming in-person programming due to uncertainties around the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

Beth presented her report. The Love Your Library campaign netted \$30,000.00, which is the most ever raised. The total put us over our fund raising goal for 2021. The Library received \$8,000.00 in matching funds. The HVAC system repairs/replacement is moving forward. We are receiving \$100,000.00 in Federal monies which will pay for the hardware that needs to be updated/replaced. Beth will apply for a Keystone Grant to pay for the operating system.

Laurie stated that she attended a recent Borough Council meeting. She provided Council with an overview of the Library's activities and challenges for 2021. Since the Love Your Library campaign was so successful, Laurie suggested we think strategically about fund raising in 2022, perhaps limiting fund raising events to one or two. Laurie confirmed with Oakmont's Chamber of Commerce that there are no events planned on May 15th that would conflict with Taste of Two Towns.

New Board member, Rebecca Panza, will be sworn in later this month and will be at January's meeting.

Wendy reviewed the financial report. We are on budget for the year. It was noted that building maintenance and printing costs were higher than anticipated. Another outlier in our 2021 budget was costs associated with special legal services, which were tied to finalizing the Furko Estate. Beth clarified that Merchandise includes note cards, Christmas ornaments, books by local authors, and sales from the Squirrel's Nest.

Jeanette summarized the November 20th Cookie Crawl/holiday event held in Verona. She met a lot of people and was delighted to see so many families out and about. She acknowledged that the Library was represented. They made books available, free for the taking. Information about the Library going fine free will be in the January Verona newsletter.

The Board reviewed the amended Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. Per Beth, the staff had no additions. The Board discussed exploring the possibility of Verona contributing money to the Library so they can have a voting member on the Board. Shane asked that this topic be a placeholder in the Plan. Jeanette posed the question: Is there value in having the Verona

representative being able to vote? The immediate answer is "yes," however this question should be included as part of the placeholder in the Plan. Shane moved the Plan be accepted as amended. Katie seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was passed.

The Board reviewed their self-evaluation. The Board agreed it is a good idea to invite different groups within the communities to attend Board meetings. The Board thanks the Chamber of Commerce for their donation. The Board asked Beth if she had feedback for us on how we could improve our performance. She responded by saying how fortunate she feels to have us on the Board. She acknowledged our hard work and consistent support of her, the staff and the Library's mission.

The Board voted on its slate of officers for 2022. Laurie nominated Shane Michael for Chair; Ann seconded the motion. Shane nominated Laurie as Vice-Chair; Katie seconded the motion. Katie nominated Wendy as Treasurer; Laurie seconded the motion. Deborah nominated Heather as Secretary; Ann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the slate of nominated officers was approved unanimously.

The Board thanked Katie Lascola for her ten years of service to the community. Likewise, they thanked Laurie for her leadership as Chair these past two years.

The Board reviewed the Collection Development and Weeding Policies. Revisions are required routinely. This current version is in response to increased book challenge activity from religious and political groups and to support local authors who may be self-publishing. Beth indicated that she and Karen deal with the patron who may be complaining about a book. They describe the book challenge process to the patron. Most confrontations happen in person. There is a form on the Library's website patrons can complete. Patrons can also make suggestions about books they'd like to see in the Library. They ask at the Circulation Desk. What patrons borrow from other libraries influences what books might be added to our collection. Beth pointed out that a publisher and and/or an author can decide whether or not to release a book on audio. The American Library Association (ALA) is focusing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as part of collection development. It is important that children see themselves represented in the books they read. Wendy moved that the policy be approved; Katie seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was passed.

There being no further business to discuss, Katie moved the meeting be adjourned; Deborah seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ormay
Recording Secretary