

LIBRARY BOARD OF OAKMONT CARNEGIE LIBRARY
Minutes
December 14, 2022

Present: Jeanette Eleff, Wendy Emery, Ann Galm, Beth Mellor, Shane Michael, Deborah Ormay, Laurie Sliben, Rebecca Panza, new member Laura Spisek

Absent: Heather Pletcher

Chair Shane Michael called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Chair Shane Michael introduced new Board member Laura Spisek (the other new Board member, Ann Buechli, was not in attendance.). Beth will check with Scott regarding when Laura and Ann will be sworn in.

Laura shared that she worked in radiology for over 40 years and moved to Oakmont 6-1/2 years ago.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November meeting. New Board member Ann's last name was misspelled (Buechli is correct). Laura moved the minutes be accepted as amended; Wendy seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed staff reports. No report from Robin. The adult programming is in Beth's report. Karen is completing her MLS in the spring. It was suggested that the borough council be petitioned to make her Assistant Library Director. A motion was made to move this forward and provide support, but Deb suggested waiting until the spring to ensure Karen's degree is completed. This will maintain transparency by waiting. We are accepting credit card payments using the new iPad. There is a \$5 minimum charge. The Library has obtained more vinyl records. The Strawberry Patch has been meeting at the library since November. There were over 80 people who attended the holiday party which was a great event. Sixteen signups for Trivia Night on 12/16.

Beth reported that over 600 people attended the House Tour. There was a miscommunication regarding participants wearing jeans in the Oakmont Country Club. It was an even sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, not the library. Too many people were jammed in homes on the tour.

Beth reported we will find out more regarding the Keystone Grant in March. Interest to be paid/charges.

Beth announced we have kept our Gold Star Status. The Board was very pleased.

Beth explained that the furnace has been fixed, but it still remains a mystery how it happened. The hot water tank pump needs to be replaced.

Shane led the discussion regarding board members and explained that there are no limits to the term of Chairperson. The Board voted on the slate of officers for 2023. Deb moved the vote; Ann Galm seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair-Shane Michael
Vice Chair-Rebecca Panza
Secretary-Heather Pletcher (with board members rotating minute-taking responsibilities while Heather is on family leave)
Treasurer-Wendy Emery

The Board agreed on the continuation of local organizations speaking at Board meetings.

Wendy shared the financial report. She noticed there were fewer donors for the Love your Library campaign, but funds were still coming in. Most giving dollars will show up in the end of year/December financial reports. RAD monies will be seen in the February report. The endowment increased to \$853,000. Allegheny County is the only one in Pennsylvania that received gambling revenue to supplement the libraries.

Jeanette provided an update on Verona activities. She is unsure who the new borough manager is. She reached out to Rhoda to have the Verona Historical Society speak to us. The Last Chance Cookie Walk is 12/22. Choir concert is 12/15 at 7 PM.

Beth described highlights of the 2023 budget process. We will receive \$56K over 12 months in addition to RAD monies. Books will be purchased for kids with dyslexia, Wonder Books for kids who can read but have comprehension issues and large print books of YA popular novels. This all helps with inclusion and diversity. The number of diverse books is increasing. Have petitioned for software to run DEI collection, and we are the highest ranked library in the system for DEI. Most kids books are written by Caucasian authors, and Beth is trying to get books from authors of more diverse backgrounds. Trying to obtain books regarding mental health, STEM for women. Beth explained that the buyers get together 4x/year to discuss purchases. There was a surge in urban fiction, but that's tapered off. They are looking to see what patrons are requesting. Beth noticed that Amish fiction is popular lately. There is a possibility for a redbox to be established at the Verona Municipal Building for book pickup.

There being no further business to discuss, Deb moved that the meeting be adjourned to executive session. Laurie seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the Board adjourned into executive session at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Panza
Acting Recording Secretary