

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT

Minutes

March 9, 2022

Present: Ann Galm, Jeanette Eleff, Beth Mellor, Shane Michael, Deborah Ormay, Heather Pletcher

Absent: Wendy Emery, Laurie Sliben

Guest: Joe Schweinberg, President of the FOOL's

Chair Shane Michael called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January meeting. Heather moved the minutes be approved; Rebecca seconded. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Shane introduced our guest, Joe Schweinberg, President of the Friends of the Oakmont Library. (FOOLs). Joe gave a history about the FOOLs. He stated that he was only the 4th President in 30 years and thanked the Board for inviting him to our meeting. This year, 2022, will be the 30th anniversary of the FOOLs. The FOOLs was started in 1992 to help aid the Library due to low state funding and cuts. Their mission is to support the Oakmont Library through the purchase of items not included in the regular library budget. They do this through member donations. Each year they publish and distribute a newsletter that shows where the funds are going. Items over the past have been computers, the Books for Babies bags, teen space items, and the paintings in the children's room. Over \$110,000 has been raised since 1996. Shane commented that we all can not thank Joe enough for what the FOOLs does for the library and thanked him for coming.

The Board reviewed the Staff Reports. Discussion arose regarding diversity and inclusion in school libraries versus public libraries. Beth stated that we as a library act in loco parentis and that parents cannot tell us which books to have on our shelves. However, we are not dismissive to people's feelings when they approach us with an issue.

Beth presented the Director's Report. She mentioned that in April, Pittsburgh Today Live will be coming to the library for taping for their show and she will let us know the date it will air. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is partnering with Allegheny County libraries to celebrate "Beethoven in your Neighborhood" and has chosen Oakmont as one of their locations. She is hoping we can use this opportunity to kick off our summer reading program. We also are supporting a refugee family from Tanzania. Robin is on the committee from the Presbyterian Church who got the family a home here in Oakmont. The library has given them a hot spot and has an ESL coordinator helping them work in the library. Beth also mentioned she was interested in taking a continuing education course about settling refugee families.

Shane presented the Chair's Report. He gave an update on the HVAC. February was the meeting with David E. Palmer, P.E. from H.F Lenz Co, their design company, Scot Fodi, Beth Mellor and himself. The design team investigated and surveyed the library's HVAC system and components. The design should be complete this spring. The estimated cost is \$300,000. We will apply for a Keystone Grant in October 2022 when the application is due. This requires 50% matching funds which the Borough has already secured for us. The grant award decision is made in March 2023. We would then begin to solicit bids Spring/Summer of 2023 and start construction Fall 2023.

Beth presented the Finance Report in Wendy's absence. She stated that we are all on target. The Borough is also in the process of hiring and training a new accountant, and since it is audit time, the Borough is requiring more help than usual from the library staff.

Jeanette gave an update on Verona. She obtained a copy of the Verona newsletter and passed it around. She is hoping to bring one for everyone to the next meeting. There was an article about the library going Fine Free in this month's newsletter. Next month's issue should also list all of Verona's upcoming activities.

Heather gave an update on the TOTT. We had our first in person meeting and it went well. The committee is strong, and we have divided up the restaurant's and who will be approaching them asking for participation. We will deliver letters to those restaurants in person by 3/15. Our next meeting will be 3/16 and hopefully will have a few definite participants as well as feelers on who will most likely participate. Beth and her staff are doing a great job with the publicity schedule and marketing of the event. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning April 1. Beth mentioned that we will invite Carrie DelRosso and Jay Costa to the event as our guests. Deb raised a concern as whether to include the Hula Bar from Verona due to the incident in September involving armed citizens and suspected militia members. She motioned to exclude the Hula Bar from the TOTT event this year, 2022, all were in favor. Heather mentioned that Laurie was helping to secure the high school students to perform music during the event. Karen has contacted the high school to have students help with serving and clean up.

Ann mentioned that she had spoke with Chris Little about the donations in memory of Jerry Little. Jerry Little had drafted the Board Engagement Bylaws. We have received over \$9,000 in his honor/memory. Beth is pricing out furniture for the adult area. We are hoping to name the area after him. Beth also stated that we track all in honor/in memory of donations and a thank you is sent to the donor and a letter to the family making them aware of the donation.

Ann also mentioned that the Garden Club of Oakmont will be holding some of their meetings at the library. Mostly smaller attended meetings in the months of January, February and March.

The Board reviewed the Maker Space policies, safety guidelines and agreement form drafts. Much discussion arose and some amendments were suggested. A staff person must be present while a patron is using the maker space. Also, if the patron is under 18, a parent must also be present while they are using the maker space. Shane asked if there were any State Policies on using a maker space and Beth said she will check through their guidelines to make sure we have the same ones. Ann questioned the average age

of the patrons using the maker space. Beth stated anywhere from middle school aged children to adults. Beth stated she will make all suggested changes and email an updated copy out for approval. The Board will then vote electronically on the changes.

There being no further business to discuss, Ann moved the meeting be adjourned; Rebecca seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Pletcher

Recording Secretary

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