

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT

Minutes

April 13, 2022

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

Chair Shane Michael called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the March meeting. There was one amendment to be made. Changing the word engagement to endowment. Deb moved the minutes be approved as amended; Ann seconded. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Deb questioned whether we should have a youth member on our Board. Beth mentioned that if we did, they would not be a voting member. Beth also commented that they would need clear guidelines and could possibly use the position towards their service hours. Shane stated that he will put in on the May agenda for us to discuss.

Shane stated that since our meeting was held virtually, our guest speaker, Gary Rogers Vice President of the Oakmont Historical Society, will attend our May meeting. Shane also has speakers scheduled from the Lions Club and Rotary for future meetings.

The Board reviewed the Staff Reports. Beth mentioned that since the meeting was virtual, both Karen and Stephanie will attend our May meeting as well. The Maker Space open house is Tuesday April 26th from 2-6pm and all are invited to check it out since we did not have an opportunity for a tour today. The OCL STEAM programming is very scant and will be ending in April to prepare for summer reading. Kids are not drawn in for the same reason anymore. They are coming in to get books and use the computer. There is just not as good attendance as there was for STEAM programming before Covid. The Board sent their congratulations to Karen for her 4.0 GPA.

Beth presented the Director's Report. She mentioned the staff was very excited for the Makerspace. There will be a formal ribbon cutting held sometime following the April 26th open house so that borough officials can be present. June 6th will be the Beethoven in Your Neighborhood event with the Pittsburgh Symphony. It will be String Quartet No. 8 in E minor, Opus 59, No. 2. It will begin at 5:30pm. There will be music and conversation throughout the evening and the music will be held in the children's section of the library.

There will be a new staff member beginning late April. Her name is Claire Halembra and she is a transfer from the CC Mellor library in Edgewood. She is a special needs employee. Her salary is covered by the state for the first 160 days, then Scot Fodi has agreed to have her fill the vacant spot on the library staff.

The Big Bag Book sale will be held on April 30th 9-4pm. It is \$5.00 for a bag of books. There will also be antique and collectible books for sale for an additional amount. Rebecca questioned how much money we normally bring in from the sale. Beth stated anywhere from \$1,200.00 to \$2,000.00 in the past. Stephanie pre-prices the books and calls collectors she knows ahead of time to spread the word about the antique and collectors books.

Shane presented the Chair's Report. He brought up the issues that the Sharpsburg Library has been facing. They are having patrons take and hide the libraries displays they have had up about diversity and inclusiveness. There have also been book challenges in schools and libraries around the county. He mentioned that he wanted to make sure we have a plan and policy in place in case something like this happens to us at our Library. Beth mentioned that she sent out the policy. She explained the process of what would happen if the library were to be brought a book challenge. There is a form that the patron has to fill out stating why they want a certain book withdrew from the library. This deters a lot of people because the work they must put in it. However, if they fill the form out then it is presented to the Board along with a report from the staff member who purchased the book explaining why it was bought. The Board also receives a copy of the book to review along with the form and staff report. The Board will then vote on if the book stays or is withdrawn. Libraries don't censor, we strive to represent the entire community. Much discussion arose around book challenges.

Wendy presented the Finance Report. She reported that we are all on target. However, there were a few line items that had to be adjusted due to the turnover in the borough office. Building repair and maintenance and equipment leases were higher this month due to paying for repainting and replacing of some of the drop ceiling. We did submit this to insurance to be reimbursed. Beth also mentioned that the staff will be receiving a 2.75% raise increase. This was to start at the beginning of the year but must have been overlooked by the borough. The staff will get their raise percentages in one check to make up for the delay and will now be added to their paychecks moving forward.

Jeanette gave an update on Verona. She stated the Verona Community newsletter is now available online. The RWA is having their yard sale April 23rd and the OCL is one of five major organizations that will benefit from the proceeds. The Verona Garden Club will host their Botany and Booze event again this year May 21-22nd. Jeanette stated she will call Shirley Davis from the Twin Boro Ministry to inquire about the Summer camp programming. Beth mentioned she would like to make some aspects of the Maker Space mobile and take to the summer camp if it will be held.

Ann and Heather gave an update on the TOTT. We are full steam ahead for the TOTT and we have a great committee. We will have 8 restaurants and 5 dessert/coffee restaurants participating. There will also be two breweries participating, Inner Groove and Acclamation. Vendor donations are going very well, and the communities are so generous and supportive. There were also 66 sponsorship letters sent out. You can buy tickets at the door or online or by calling the library.

Shane stated some topics that will be on the May agenda; having a youth representative on the board, Gary Rogers from the Historical Society as a guest, and Karen and Stephanie as guests.

Laurie thanked Shane for what a great job he is doing bringing other community leaders into our meetings to share their organizations with us.

There being no further business to discuss, Heather moved the meeting be adjourned; Rebecca seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Pletcher

Recording Secretary

DRAFT