

LIBRARY BOARD OF OAKMONT CARNEGIE LIBRARY
Minutes
November 9, 2022

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

Absent: Rebecca Panza, Heather Pletcher

Chair Shane Michael called the meeting to order at 6:40.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the October meeting. Ann 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. Beth talked about “wonder books” for children with low vision and about LAMP, an organization that lends materials to the visually impaired and differently abled. Jeanette asked if there were adult books on Native Americans that will be displayed in honor of Native American Heritage Month? Beth said they are in process of gathering those titles for display.

Beth presented her report. She called attention to the Library’s website feature called “Back Page” and what a helpful resource it is. It provides notices of new releases, book reviews, and author interviews among other things.

So far Beth has received no questions regarding the Library’s Keystone Grant application. By January, we will hear if the Library is under consideration for a grant. If so, we should receive notice by March as to whether or not our library was chosen.

Beth reported that this year’s Love Your Library campaign’s donations have exceeded those of the 2021 campaign. She reminded the Board about Give Big Pittsburgh which will occur on November 29. We are signed up to participate. There are no matching funds with this appeal. We spell out on our website what donations provide. This fund raiser distributes raised monies quickly after collection.

Beth indicated that downspouts on the building need to be adjusted. Her announcement of a facilities maintenance person for the Borough was well-received. This means the Library will not be paying for building repairs out of its budget.

Shane led the discussion regarding board member recruitment and the slate of officers for 2023. Two board candidates were identified and interviewed. Shane, Beth, and Laurie provided feedback on the candidates. Deborah moved that the Board accept Laura Spisak and Ann Beighley for board membership. Ann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

After discussion, the Board recommended the following slate of officers for 2023:

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 will vote on the officers December 14.

Wendy shared the financial report. She indicated that the endowment has gotten a little boost from a slight market rebound. The money for the bond payment and the interest will be pulled out in November. Funds for Love Your Library are still coming in. The announcement regarding the matching funds is later than usual this year. Line items regarding building maintenance are good. We are on track to spend 12% of the budget on books and materials. The bond will be paid off November 2024.

Jeanette provided an update on Verona activities. There is a new borough manager in Verona. Light up night with a parade is November 19. The Verona Community Committee put a lot of time and energy into the 150th celebration for Verona and are taking time to regroup. Jeanette asked the Board if we want someone from Verona to attend one of the Board's meetings. She wants to help Verona to find ways to better interact with the Library.

Beth described highlights of the 2023 budget process. It is going well. The Library will have some added flexibility in how it spends the allotted budget. She indicated that Borough Council has been most supportive, particularly with respect to building maintenance issues.

There being no further business to discuss, Wendy moved that the meeting be adjourned to executive session. Ann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the Board adjourned into executive session at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Ormay
Acting Recording Secretary