

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT

Minutes

March 8, 2023

Present: Ann Buechli, Jeanette Eleff, Wendy Emery, Ann Galm, Beth Mellor, Shane Michael, Rebecca Panza, Heather Pletcher

Absent: Laura Spisak

Guest: Frank Santucci, Verona Historical Society

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

Shane introduced our guest, Frank Santucci, from the Verona Historical Society.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January meeting. Jeanette mentioned her name was misspelled in the minutes. Heather moved the minutes be approved as amended, Ann G. seconded. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Frank Santucci thanked the Board for having him as a guest speaker. He loves libraries as his daughter is a librarian in Ohio. He stated he is a retired NP and had worked at the VA hospital for 50 years. He had started going to the Verona Historical Society meetings while he was writing articles for the Verona paper. He has several stories that are available on the Verona Historical Society website.

The Verona Historical Society is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and promotion of our region's rich and interesting history. The society envisions leading and inspiring historical research and acquiring artifacts for the purpose of public display in order to educate its citizens about our interesting past.

The Verona Historical Society meets the third Thursday every month at 7pm in the Verona Municipal Building located at 736 East Railroad Avenue in Verona. They are open every other Saturday, the second and fourth, of each month 10-1pm, and by appointment otherwise.

Jeanette questioned why Verona's history was so important. Frank stated that Verona used to be called Mechanicsburg. In 1844 the round house of the Pittsburgh Railroad was where the GetGo in Verona currently is. There was also a boathouse during the war of 1812 between Plum and the Allegheny River. Verona was the first area outside of the city of Pittsburgh where people resided. Verona also extended all the way to Hulton Road until 1871, when Oakmont was created.

Frank went on to talk about many interesting facts about Verona and Oakmont. The Board thanked Frank for coming to speak.

The Board reviewed the Staff Reports. Karen is almost done with school. Her graduation will be May 6th. She plans to attend the graduation in person. Stephanie is continuing creating many training programs in the Maker Space.

Heather stated that the new assistant Kelsey seemed to be learning quick and as much as possible. Beth stated that she has been coming in with ideas for the maker space and has a whole notebook full of ideas. Beth also mentioned that Kelsey was a musician.

Shane questioned if we meant up with other libraries regarding the Maker Space. Beth said that we do compare Maker Space ideas with other local libraries. Many home school families also enjoy using the Maker Space area as part of their curriculum.

Shane questioned what our libraires reach area was. Beth stated Plum, Penn Hills, Harmarville, and stated that she can run a report for the Board to see the “circle” of our reach.

The Board reviewed the Director’s report. Beth stated that the replacement of all the lighting in the Library had been going great. It is definitely making a huge difference.

Ann G. mentioned Jeanette’s event coming up that was sold out. Jeanette stated it was about “Women Rowing North.” There will be three sessions, discussion about the book, exercises and lastly attendees will create a vision board.

Shane presented the Chairs Report. He stated that Beth did a great job with the Keystone Grant and thanked her. We all know that it is not an easy task. How we spend the grant will be based on the Mechanical Systems evaluation. Shane presented his summary of the report that supports the funding request. Most of the equipment we have is coming to end of life and that is what needs to be replaced.

Wendy presented the Finance Report. There are no major points to discuss regarding our finances.

Jeanette gave an update on Verona. She passed out the Verona Community Newsletter. Jeanette mentioned what a great job Beth does getting all the Library events and news into the Verona newsletter. She mentioned that she stopped and introduced herself to the new Borough Manager, Stefanie Woolford.

Ann G. and Heather gave an update on Taste of Two Towns. This year it will be held Sunday May 7th 5-7pm. Letters are being delivered to vendors to ask them to participate. The next step is having letters sent out for sponsorship and delivered for donations. Everything is on track for the event and the committee is great again this year.

Beth gave an update on the RAD funding. We will receive a lump sum of \$56,000 and the Board will need to decide how to spend the extra funding. Beth’s recommendation was to put half the funds in the endowment. We could use remaining funds to update all the signage in the Library, making the signage not only new, cohesive, but also adding brail to the signage.

Shane motioned to spend the funds as stated above, Rebecca seconded, and all agreed.

There being no further business to discuss, Heather moved the meeting be adjourned; Wendy seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Pletcher

Recording Secretary