

LIBRARY BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKMONT
MINUTES

April 10, 2024

Present: Rebecca Panza, Ann Buechli, Laura Spisak, Jeanette Eleff, Ann Galm, Niki Senchak, Caitlyn Boland

Excused: Heather Pletcher, Shane Michael

New board member Niki Senchak was welcomed.

Councilperson Deb Ormay, our board liaison, was welcomed to the meeting.

Derek Evans, from Wells Fargo, was welcomed to the meeting.

Chair Rebecca Panza called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

January minutes were reviewed. With no amendments, Ann Galm moved that the minutes be approved and Ann Buechli seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved. The secretary was reminded to send the approved minutes each month to the manager and assistant manager of the borough.

Financial Report

Ann Buechli reported that the Keystone Grant is not yet available to us.

Contributions have increased. Postage expenses have increased due to the Love Your Library mailer. The library now has an Amazon prime membership.

Ann is planning to meet with the borough accountant.

Derek Evans presented an overview of our account. 2022 was a bad financial year with the account down about 16%. In 2023, however, we recovered about 13%. The allocations of funding are currently 63% stocks, 31% fixed assets and the rest cash. Derek recommends a reduction in stocks and an increase in fixed assets to 55% stocks, 45% fixed assets and 5% cash. We did a similar change in 2023, but he recommends it again in 2024 because the market has been volatile, interest rates have not yet been reduced and it's an election year. Meanwhile our dividends, estimated at \$21,000, are being reinvested.

The board will decide at the May meeting whether or not to institute this change.

Staff reports

Robin's book club book choices are bringing in more men to the meetings, which has traditionally been mostly women. The book sale will be held on April 27. The new and updated 3D printer has arrived. Conversations with a Death Doula will take place on April 29, which promotes good discussions about end of life situations.

Stephanie will be working on how to optimize the best seller collection. We pay a subscription fee to get best sellers, so the goal is to optimize how that money is spent and how many of those books can be put into circulation.

Jeanette commented that she and some friends attended the Makerspace crochet class and found it very well conducted.

Director's Report

Caitlyn's statistics were reviewed.

Caitlyn attended the ACLA meeting, where Sen. Jay Costa was a guest. Libraries collectively asked for a 4% increase in state funding. The large cut that took place back in 2006 has been reinstated, but more is needed at this time. Locally, there is a request of funding for book vending.

Jeanette asked about Caitlyn's meeting with the Verona borough manager. Caitlyn responded that it was a good introduction and that she wanted to provide continuity in the relationship between the borough and the library. The manager suggested a book vending machine in the Verona municipal building. A discussion followed about book vending machines. Caitlyn informed the board that Verner elementary school installed their book vending machine in conjunction with the PTA and Oakmont Bakery, independent of the Library.

The Youth Services Librarian position is posted. At the time of the board meeting there are 3 applicants and the deadline is April 14.

April 3 was Library Giving Day. The library received \$275.00.

Water leakage issues were discussed after the recent excessive rains.

A phone has been installed in the Makerspace room.

Caitlyn presented a quote from Guardian, our current security vendor, for security cameras. The library currently has "DIY" cameras, which are not as effective as what we should have.

The Guardian quote was quite high, so there was an in depth discussion about security, including different vendors as well as who monitors the cameras. Niki suggested that PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association) grants may be available. The decision was made to consult with the borough council and talk to Scott Fodi about getting additional bids.

Chair Report

Rebecca thanked everyone for the great turnout for the library tour and Caitlyn for leading the informational tour. The tour actually took place on April 6, rather than in March.

Although Shane originally planned to take care of the building assessment, he has requested that Caitlyn take it over.

The board will keep one rolling year of minutes on the website.

Rebecca is suggesting an electronic board at the library entry to notify the public of upcoming events. She or Caitlyn will ask Stephanie to research.

Verona Update

Jeanette informed that board that a Verona community picnic is being planned for September 28. Caitlyn suggested that a library representative could be at various community events in each borough.

Discussion

Ann G. reported on the planning progress for Taste of Two Towns:

- As of the time of the board meeting, 47 tickets were sold.
- There has been a good response from restaurants.
- Still working with sponsors - those who donate get 2 tickets.
- Asked about having a 50/50 this year and all agreed.
- Set up will be Saturday May 4 at 9 AM.
- Volunteers are needed to serve food because restaurants are short staffed.

Action items

- Ann B. will meet with the borough accountant.
- Board will decide whether to change the allocations in the Wells Fargo account.
- Rebecca or Caitlyn will talk to Scott about bids for security cameras.
- Rebecca or Caitlyn will ask Stephanie to research electronic bulletin boards.
- TOTT set up at 9:00 AM on Saturday May 4, with the event to follow on May 5.

The next board meeting will be on May 8, 2024 at 5:30 PM. There being no further business, Rebecca moved to adjourn. Niki seconded. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Spisak