

April 21, 2025



A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Reading Public Library commenced at 4:30 PM, Alan Carman, President, presiding.

Present: Alan Carman, Kaitlin Daley, Michel Micozzi, Salvador Sepulveda, Jerry Richter, Sherry Cameron, Warren Weik, Anthony Orozco, John Nelka, Julia Becker, Chris Phillips, Felix Pena, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller.

Absent: Arielle Phillips-Law, Julia Becker, Keith Mooney, Rick Perez. Excused

Guests: Becky Wanamaker and Carolyn Spano.

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Motion to approve the March minutes was made by Sherry Cameron and seconded by Jerry Richter. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Chris Phillips reported that we had received most of our 2nd quarter funding in March. Expenses are normal and our investments are holding compared to last year. Motion to accept the March Treasurer's report was made by Warren Weik and seconded by Salvador Sepulveda. Accepted.

Director's Report: Melissa reported that so far, passport appointments have increased this year by approximately 20% going from 130-150 appointments from March of last year. There will be a special Story Time at the Reading Public Museum Arboretum on Tuesday, May 20 at 4pm as part of our Longwood Garden's 2025 Community Read: the picture book "The Extraordinary Gardener" by Sam Boughton. Thanks to the City for the completed ADA door project at each branch location. This project was to install ADA automatic doors and to remove the inner door at the NW branch. We are currently working on the library health insurance renewal. The plan costs have increased a little over 30% from last years costs.

Becky reported on behalf of the district that the proposed changes for PA public Library Regulations are being discussed. They are expected to take effect in 26/27. A forum will be hosted to prepare libraries.

Library Services: No Report.

Facilities: No Report

Finance: No Report.

Personnel: No Report

Strategic Planning: Melissa reported that a Strategic Planning Retreat for Board Members will be June 24 with the locations still to be determined.

Advancement: Carolyn reported Celebrity Bartender will be on May 14, and our goal to raise is \$14,000. We have several competitive bartenders this year and each hope to raise \$2500 prior to the event. Our lapse donor mailing went out last week and PAGES was sent out last month. We had our first Cocktails and Classics meeting. The theme this year will be Under the Sea and our goal is \$150,000. Summer at RPL will kick-off in May. Alison is doing a great job with our social media and trying out different ideas. Because our reach is so high with our platform we will not be placing an ad with the Reading Eagle for Cocktails and Classics this year.

Unfinished Business: Questions and concerns are still being addressed regarding the Law Library. We expect a contract soon.

New Business:

Trustees for the Reading Public Library Foundation Board must be approved by the library board. Motion to appoint Renee Dietrich to the Foundation Board of Trustees was made by Felix Pena and seconded by Anthony Orozco. Approved.

Trivia Question by Sal: What year was the first library in the United States open?

Answer: 1731. The Library Company of Philadelphia was founded by Benjamin Franklin. It was a subscription library. Members paid 40 shillings to access resources.

Motion to adjourn was made by Chris Phillips and seconded by Anthony Orozco. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michel Micozzi', followed by a period.

Michel Micozzi
Secretary