

February 24, 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, Chris Phillips, Kaitlin Daley, Michel Micozzi, Salvador Sepulveda, Felix Pena, Jerry Richter, Keith Mooney, Sherry Cameron, Warren Weik, Anthony Orozco, Arielle Phillips-Law, Melissa Adams and Vicky Fuller

**Absent:** John Nelka, Julia Becker. Excused

**Guests:** Becky Wanamaker, Marissa Guidara and Carolyn Spano.

**Public Comment:** Introduced Arielle Phillips-Law as a new board member appointed by Library Company.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the January minutes was made by Chis Phillips and seconded by Felix Pena. Approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Chris Phillips reported on the Tigh distribution revenue that was higher than originally budgeted. Nothing out of ordinary to report on expenses. There is upward movement in the market, which is reflected in our investments. Motion to accept the January 2024 Treasurer's Report was Kaitlin Daley and seconded by Warren Weik. Accepted.

**Director's Report:** Melissa Adams reported that the BCPL Awards Ceremony will be March 5 at 6:30 PM at the system office. We have submitted entries in several categories and are hopeful to win a few. New Trustee Orientation has been scheduled. All trustees are required to attend the orientation within a year of their appointment. If you are new or did not attend last year due to joining the board after the orientation had passed, please make plans to attend one of the sessions. We held CPR training on Friday, February 7 with ten staff members becoming certified. We will be getting AEDs from the city for all locations to facilitate CPR if needed. We received our confirmation letter from BCPL that we were in compliance for the 2024 Uniform Requirements and Responsibilities. Melissa also explained the waiver required for District Aid standards of operating hours and DLC agreement Advisory Council.

Motion to approve the Resolution for a waiver of District Aid standards for hours of operation and District Agreement Advisory Council for the 23-24 fiscal year was made by Salvadore Sepulveda and seconded by Anthony Orozco. Approved.

Becky Wanamaker referred to the Library District report that was sent prior to the meeting. Marissa Guidara wanted to highlight their partnership with BCIU and Early Intervention held at over 16 libraries in Berks County.

**Library Services:** No Report. We do need a chairman for this committee.

**Facilities:** Michel Micozzi reported a meeting is scheduled for March 8 to review the kitchen upgrades for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in children's area of the Main library.

**Finance:** No Report. A meeting will be scheduled to start looking at long-term strategies for cash flow.

**Personnel:** No Report.

**Strategic Planning:** Melissa Adams reported on behalf of Julia Becker. We were able to negotiate the strategic plan from \$27,600 to \$25,551.

**Advancement:** Carolyn Spano reported they are still trying to recruit members for the committee. The gratitude report is in final proofing and will be mailed out to over 1000 individuals. Cocktails and Classics will be at the Doubletree again this year and we have negotiated the price with an increased bar at \$15,000. Kimberton Whole Foods will be participating in the Round-up with proceeds going to RPL. Celebrity Bartender is scheduled in May and will be at Saucony Creek again this year. The team is currently wrapping up the Manny Guzman grant.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** We have several vacancies on various committees. Please consider serving on more than one committee.

Please note that the board meeting for April will be held at the Southeast Branch and the October meeting at Northeast.

We were approached about housing the Berks County Law Library at RPL. Berks County is required to have a law library and has to be in the County seat so Reading is a good option. The library has to move regardless if RPL accepts or not. The collection is currently about 35,000 books, which will be weeded down to about 200. There needs to be a defined space as well as a computer to access the Westlaw database. Our staff can handle the additional workflow with a smooth transition. Would be good access based on our current hours open to the public. Keith Mooney asked about the Municipality ordinances and availability to the public. We will have to confirm what that piece will entail. The Westlaw database contract is for 10 years and costs around \$84,000 per year. The county is on year 3 of the 10-year contract. We would also need to negotiate square footage. There are several elements that we need clarification on before moving forward. There is also a Conflict of Interest since we have a board member employed at the current Law Library. Melissa asked for a motion to continue moving forward with negotiations.

Salvatore Sepulveda made the motion to continue the negotiations with the law library, seconded by Keith Mooney. Approved.

Salvatore Sepulveda asked the trivia question. To celebrate the New York Public Library's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it released a top ten list of its most checked-out library books of all time with several classic children's and young adult books featuring prominently among the beloved, and immensely popular titles. What are some of the top ten books? *The Snowy Day* with 485,583 checkouts, *The Cat in the Hat*, 1984, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, and last was *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Honorable mention at number 11 was *Goodnight Moon*.

Motion to adjourn was made by Felix Pena and seconded by Chris Phillips. Approved.

Respectfully submitted as drafted by Vicky Fuller,



Michel Micozzi  
Secretary