

November 18, 2013

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Reading Public Library was held today at 4:00PM at the Northeast Branch Library located at 1348 N. 11th Street, Reading, PA, Renee Dietrich, President, presiding.

Present: Henriette Alban, Toni Albert, Justin Bodor, Ryan Breisch, Johanny Cepeda, Robin Costenbader-Jacobson, Renee Dietrich, Heather Hanna, Paul Hoh, Frank Kasprowicz, Greg Knies, Ernie Schlegel, Stephanie Towles.

Absent: Jonathan Ziegler, excused.

Guests: Linda Reedy, Kate Thornton

Linda Reedy, representing the Reedy Scholarship, was present and presented the Library with a check for \$1,500.00 for new computer equipment.

Public Comment: None

Minutes: The minutes of the October 21, 2013 meeting of the Board meeting were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the October Treasurer's Report made by Paul Hoh, seconded by Toni Albert. Accepted.

Director's Report: Copies of the Director's Report were made available along with additional handouts. Frank talked about new programs at the Library, specifically "Scan, Borrow and Read." Library staff is currently collecting data on this program. Frank informed the Board that the Library will be moving back to Main on December 2, 3 and 4, with a re-opening scheduled for December 26. Linda Baer is coordinating volunteers to help move boxes, clean, and unpack boxes. Kate Thornton is working on a date in January for an official Grand Re-opening.

Library Services: Stephanie Towles reported that the committee has been discussing how to arrange space in Main to better provide services and programs. The policy regarding new patrons seems to be working well.

Facilities: Main looks great. Frank Watts at Burkey Construction has done a great job. Henriette Alban explained the new layout and flow. She commented on how wonderful the staff has been with their flexibility and openness throughout the renovation process. There has been excellent communication between the committee and the staff during the renovation.

Renovations: Renee Dietrich reported that to date, \$47,000 of the \$60,000 approved by the Board for the renovations has been used. This includes the cost for moving back to Main. Several other bills may need to be added.

Finance: The first draft of the proposed 2014 budget was presented by Greg Kneis, as Jonathan Ziegler was unable to attend the meeting. Due to the recycling issue, the Library will not be receiving the extra \$200,000 from the City as originally expected. As a result, the committee has asked Frank to see where \$100,000 in expenses could be cut. Paul Hoh expressed that the Board would look forward to the City's promised support for 2014 once the recycling issue is resolved. Robin Costenbader-Jacobson wants to see the Pennsylvania Room utilized as a revenue source. Robin Costenbader-Jacobson suggested the services provided to patrons and researchers through the Pennsylvania Room be reviewed and utilized as a revenue source. Stephanie Towles and Henriette Alban agreed based on the amount space allocated in the Library for the Pennsylvania Room.

Development: Report given by Kate Thornton. Kate believes we may have surpassed the fundraising goal of \$100,000. Robin Costenbader-Jacobson inquired as to why the Cocktails and Classics event is not being held at Main in 2014. Last year the event held at the GoggleWorks was due to the Main Library being scheduled to undergo renovations. She stated that it was discussed at that time the 2014 event would be held at the Library. She said fundraising events should showcase and brand the Library as a community venue especially after the extensive renovations that have been done.

Strategic Planning: Report given by Paul Hoh. The first strategic planning meeting with Tweed Weber was held on November 2 and was well-received. The second session will be held on Saturday, November 23rd at Alvernia's Upland Center from 8:30 to 12:30. The Board was encouraged to read the summary of the November 2 meeting prior to the 23rd.

By-Laws: Justin Bodor is working on revisions. He will ask for Board input by January.

Unfinished Business: As Paul will be in Vermont, a representative from the Reading Public Library Board is needed to attend the Berks County Library System Board meeting on Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00. There is no additional report from the nominating committee.

New Business:None

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:05 to discuss a personnel issue was made by Ryan Breisch, seconded by Stephanie Towles. Executive Session ended at 5:32.

Motion to adjourn by Heather Hanna, seconded by Robin Costenbader-Jacobson.Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Breisch
Secretary