

Library Board Minutes

December 10, 2018

Bethlehem Area Public Library

President Sharon Yoshida called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDING: City – Anne Felker, Jane Gill, Sharon Yoshida, Julie Zumas
Bethlehem Township – Malissa Davis, John Merhottein
Fountain Hill – Annamarie Jordan

Staff – Josh Berk

Other – Terence Faul (King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul)

ABSENT: City – Olga Negrón, Emil Signes, Marie Sterlein
Hanover Township – Jamie Paxton
Staff – Erin Poore

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: An interesting discussion took place about the bestselling memoir, *Educated*, by Tara Westover.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jane Gill made a motion to accept the November minutes, seconded by John Merhottein. Malissa Davis abstained. The motion was passed.

APPROVAL OF OPERATING FUNDS: A motion was made by Anne Felker and seconded by Annamarie Jordan to approve the October Operating Funds, subject to audit. The motion was passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT:

1. The November Book Sale brought in over \$14,000, the highest amount on record. The large crowd attending the sale waited patiently for two hours to purchase some literary treasures. The sale of some of the donated collectible books added to this impressive amount.
2. The partnership with the "Kindness is Magic" organization has been very successful. Handmade ornaments made from discarded books by library staff and volunteers have been in great demand throughout the area. The ornaments sell for five dollars a piece, and the profits will be split evenly between the partners. Kindness is Magic will use their share to help lower the school lunch debt for area students. The library will apply its share to pay children's overdue book fines.

REPORTS:

1. City of Bethlehem – none
2. Bethlehem Township – none

3. Fountain Hill – none
4. Hanover Township – none
5. Friends of the Bethlehem Area Public Library – The Friends will issue a Certificate of Appreciation to Leiser's Sales and Rental for their generous support of the Friends' fundraisers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Governance Committee: Anne Felker led a discussion on the various issues to be addressed in the new year. Term limits for members and a succession plan for officers were some of points that will be considered in the coming months.
2. Strategic Planning Committee: Julie Zumas reported the library did not receive the grant from The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. President Yoshida announced the resignation of Marie Sterlein, who represented the City of Bethlehem, from the library board, effective December 31, 2018. She also announced the resignation of Janet Barry, a former board member, from the Marketing Committee. There are a few individuals who are interested in joining the Board.
2. Attorney Faul presented some changes in the Memorandum of Understanding for the Coolidge Building in Bethlehem Township. A timeline for when the final decision will be made, number of bathrooms, the facility being called a library satellite, and being used for voting were all discussed. The Township is looking to open Coolidge in early spring. A draft date of July 1, 2019, for the final decision was agreed on. A motion was made by Anne Felker and seconded by John Merhottein to authorize Director Berk to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Director Berk asked the Board their thoughts on accepting funding from the Lehigh Valley Health Network in exchange for advertising in the library. The Board consensus was "no, thank you."
2. Annamarie Jordan made the motion to accept the most generous Sharon and Ron Yoshida Endowment Fund for the library, seconded by Malissa Davis. The motion was passed unanimously by a grateful Board.

3. The library's second bookmobile arrived at the City garage, towed there by the City of Bethlehem. It will stay there, awaiting future plans for its place in the community.

A motion was made to adjourn by Malissa Davis at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annamarie Jordan, Secretary