



Free Library of Northampton Township

Library Board Meeting

November 9, 2023

Board Members Present: Chip Heim (President), Janet Baker (Vice President), Charlene DiSarlo (Treasurer), Michael May (Secretary), Eleanora Rosso, Charles Beem, Jessica Freundel

Staff Present: Wayne Lahr (Library Director)

Citizens Present: Elice and Sinclair Saltisburg

Call to Order

President called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Approval of October 2023 Minutes

The Board approved the October 2023 Meeting Minutes unanimously.

Reading of Library Mission and Vision Statement

- Freundel read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Friends of the Library Report

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Library Director Report

- 2024 budget – the township Finance Dept. has included the funds to pay FLNT's portion of the BCFL IT Department budget which supports all county libraries; funds have been included to begin initial planning for inside and outside facility improvements mentioned in Strategic Plan.
- The Friends group has unofficially agreed to fund the 2023 replacement computer costs and the replacement of the network switch. It will need to be passed formally at the next meeting.
- Self-checkout kiosks approaching 43% usage; this past month was the highest rate of its usage.
- The library has received six new replacement computers and, after evaluating the public PC usage, has eliminated two computers. There will be a decrease in the number of Express computers, from three to one. Express computers do not require a card for usage, however, FLNT offers guess passes for public PC use which other libraries do not offer.
- The 2023 Annual Appeal letter will be mailed out early in the week of 11/13. The letter will include a real-life story of a person whose life was changed due to the availability of the library and its services.

Library Calendar

- The Board unanimously approved the actual dates of the 2024 Board meetings. As stated in the By-Laws, they will continue to be held on the second Thursday of the month.
- The Board voted 6-1 to approve the library's 2024 closure schedule. The vote against approval was a member believing the library should remain open on Mother's Day.

Strategic Plan

- Conversation continued regarding ideas on how best to approach the implementation of the Strategic Plan Priorities.
- Initial ad hoc committees have been formed for each of the Strategic Plan's four priorities amongst Board members.
- The Director will coordinate staff participation with the committees for each of the four strategic priorities.

Committee Assignment:

- Priority #1: Beem will serve as a liaison between the Board and the committee to address; Committee to include May, Lahr, and selected staff;
- Priority #2: Paula Gasper will serve as liaison between Board and committee; Committee to include DiSarlo, Lahr, selected staff members, and possibly 2 other township employees;
- Priority #3: Freundel, liaison; Committee to include Rosso, Lahr, and selected staff;
- Priority #4: Rosso (indoor), Braker (outdoor) will serve as liaisons; Committees to include Freundel, Heim, Lahr, and selected staff;
- Library Director will consider staff to identify particular skill sets that would be most appropriate to serve on particular committees;

Public Comment

Our visitors commented about how they've been library supporters for a long time and finally decided to attend a Board meeting to observe the "behind the scenes" happenings.

For the Good of the Order / Miscellaneous

- Rosso mentioned a program in Demark called Denmark's Human Library. Instead of borrowing a book, a patron can borrow a human (30 minutes?) for conversation to learn about the "human book's" life experiences, etc. These Human Library programs now exist in over 70 countries and something similar to this would fit in very well in areas of our Strategic Plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael May, Secretary

Date