

Library Board Minutes

July 11, 2016 (Amended)

Bethlehem Area Public Library

President Thomas Nolan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDING: City – Jane Gill, Emil Signes, Sharon Yoshida, Julie Zumas
Bethlehem Township – Janet Barry, Thomas Nolan
Hanover Township – Jack Nagle
Fountain Hill – Annamarie Jordan

Staff – Josh Berk, Brenda Grow, Liza Holzinger

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

ABSENT: City – Olga Negrón-Dipiní, Cathy Reuscher, Marie Sterlein

Staff – Erin Poore

Other – Elyse Geyer (Buckno Lisicky)

The May minutes were approved in a motion made by Jane Gill, seconded by Janet Barry, and passed unanimously.

Tom Nolan commented on the status of the operating funds. Revenue is ahead of expenditures for the first half of the year. The final bills for the Children's Center have been covered by two grants (\$20,000 from the Friends of the Library and \$28,755 from the R.K. Laros Foundation). Sharon Yoshida made a motion to accept the May and June financial reports subject to audit, seconded by Jack Nagle. The motion passed unanimously.

Brenda Grow, Branch Manager, gave an update on the South Side Branch. She reports a 45% increase in attendance since 2012. Relevant adult programming is planned to meet the needs of the community. Children's programming attracts families. Internet access is particularly important to the Southside neighborhoods.

DIRECTOR'S ORAL REPORT:

1. PHEAA students and high school students have been hired to cover the summer months.
2. Erin Poore negotiated a better contract at half the price and with newer technology for the well-used postage meter machine.

REPORTS:

1. City of Bethlehem – Jane Gill commented on the library’s high electronic usage. She also applauded the library’s use of social media for publicity purposes.
2. Bethlehem Township – Janet Barry and her nephews are impressed with the Children’s Center. She suggested that we contact Danny Roebuck to get the library featured in the film he is shooting in Bethlehem. She also would like to see Bethlehem Township’s website link to the library’s homepage.
3. Fountain Hill – Some of the Borough’s officials have seen the new Children’s Center and commented that they will never end their support of the library.
4. Hanover Township – Jack Nagle would like to see the library more visibly represented at community events in the City and the municipalities. Sharon Yoshida, Janet Barry, Emil Signes, and Annamarie Jordan have formed an outreach committee to investigate ways and opportunities to advocate for the library.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. There was preliminary discussion about the 2017 Budget. We are still feeling the impact of budget restraints caused by the delay in State funds last year. The line item for libraries in the State budget just approved is the same as the last 10 years. Director Berk will ask for Board volunteers to form a committee to assist him in creating the 2017 Budget.
2. Jane Gill made a motion to approve the 990 federal tax form for 2015, seconded by Jack Nagle, and passed unanimously.

Emil Signes made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting date is September 12.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza Holzinger, Staff