

Bethlehem Public Library Trustee Minutes – July 12th, 2021

Members Present: Doug Harman, Sara Plumley, Tana LeClair, Lisa Ffrench, Barbara Szeidler, Nora Clark, and Len Grubbs

Librarian Present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting Commenced at 7:02 PM

Meeting Minutes

The decision was made to accept the minutes as written; the decision passed unanimously, with Sara abstaining due to being unable to attend the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Len indicated that the budget is still favorable by about \$5,600.

The motion was made by Barbara to accept the report, and seconded by Sara; the motion was accepted unanimously, with Nora abstaining due to attending via Zoom and not being able to review the budget sheet.

Old Business

Nothing to report.

Committees

HR - Nothing to report.

Finance – Nothing to report.

Buildings and Grounds – Nothing to report.

Technology – Nothing to report.

Bylaws and Policies – Nothing to report.

Public Input

Mary Polaski attended the meeting, representing the Friends of the Library group. They have purchased a 36" tall "Big Belly Bank," which is shaped like a dinosaur and stores donated coins in its "belly." This will hold donations for the Friends of the Library and is currently on display in the vestibule of the library building.

Funds gathered from this display are separate from the library's town budget.

It is also transported to the gazebo park each week during concerts when the Friends sell snacks to the public. Ms. Polaski requested that the bank also be allowed at other events that the Friends help fund. The Board found no issue with this suggestion and are grateful for all the Friends of the Library do.

Librarian's Report

The library has made ~\$1,500 in income this year to date from things such as photocopies and the like.

Numbers of patrons using the library in person are back to pre-pandemic numbers. Patron visits are up 86% from last June; circulation numbers are up 79% from last June.

Elaine comes back from leave this week, and Mary will be back at the end of the month. We will be pleased to have them back!

The library is still in need of a 5th employee for a clerk position.

After Labor Day, the library will most likely be back to its normal schedule, as well as relaxing the mask mandate.

The Story Walk was unfortunately vandalized within the first ten days of its being open. The podium damaged was the one closest to the elementary school, and furthest from the library. Thankfully it has been fixed, and help has been offered from members of the community as to discovering what happened.

The new website design is still in progress.

The state has given the library a grant from the state to offset costs and issues from the COVID-19 pandemic. Bethlehem Public Library received \$2,961. Some of the things that this will be used for includes a Meeting Owl device, for hybrid programming; kits and manipulatives used for preschool learning; and an outdoor musical instrument display intended to be set up near the Story Walk.

Another round of aid will be available at a later date; this grant will be competitive, with preference to those who collaborate with other community organizations and/or libraries.

Len made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm, which was seconded by Sara and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Tana