

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE ABINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Date: April 29, 2024

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Joe Milano.

PRESENT: Joe Milano, Emily Cooper, Liz Fitzgerald, Lauren Greaves, Daniel Kaye, Maurie Markman, Elaine Cassidy Shanahan and Nancy Wright. Terry Biansco, Michelle Washington, Diane Moskal, and Erin Palmer were also in attendance.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2024, was made by Joe Milano, seconded by Emily Cooper. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The March 2024 report was reviewed.

- Special Income under Penn Community savings account decreased from February to March because some ATPL savings were moved to Fulton Bank.
- Annual Township appropriations for the year were received in March.
- Gas and electric are expected to increase over next several years due to PECO rate increases.
- A motion was made by Elaine Cassidy Shanahan to approve the final draft of the 2023 audit, seconded by Maurie Markman. Motion passed.

The March report will be filed for audit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Personnel and Library Business

- A staff pin ceremony will take place May 30 at 8:30 a.m. Mimi Sattlethwaite and Cathy Kress will receive pins for 25 years.
- Jennifer Weiner event was a huge success! Thank you to the Friends, Mimi and Sara for their volunteer support, Lauren for leading the author discussion, and Helen Stauss for handling logistics so skillfully.
- Thank you to all ATPL staff for dealing with misinformation about the library having free eclipse glasses, which wreaked havoc in our two buildings!
- Several ATPL staff will be presenting at the PA Library Association Conference this fall. Mimi Sattlethwaite and Laura McGough will present on outreach; Sara Huff will speak about teen services.
- The library is posting a position for a full-time youth services librarian to be filled soon. Looking ahead to Carolyn's pending retirement, a posting for her replacement is expected in the coming weeks. Carolyn's last day will be August 16, culminating a lengthy career of 27 years!
- Anecdotal reports suggest that our new website is a user-friendly improvement over its predecessor.

Strategic Plan

- Marcus Palm, part time reference librarian and Drexel MLIS student, is doing his capstone project on signage and aims to propose improvements in this area.
- We received several proposals for Staff-led Programming funded by Department of Education grant. Ideas include adding board games to our lending collection, purchase of a Cricut for adult crafting, and a summer creative writing workshop for adults.
- Inclusive Practices committee came up with professional development training to help people with intellectual disabilities. Will reach out to district consultants to apply for district grants.
- Large-print fiction will be moved to area where Playaways and audiobooks currently are stored. Playaways and audiobooks will be moved near small study rooms. We might be able to remove one row of shelving from north end of building, which will make that area roomier, a helpful improvement as we prepare for the pavilion.

Program Highlights

- AARP tax appointments were very well-received. This program is a perennial favorite, especially at tax time.
- "Starting a Veggie Garden" is very popular.

Children's

- Science Stories in Alverthorpe started April 18 and will consist of four sessions.
- Another Lego robotics program was put on the schedule because the first one was so popular!
- We are making more room for more graphic novels.

Young Adults

- Sara Huff will receive a Montgomery County DHHS grant for program on mental health and wellbeing for teens, which will include mindfulness meditation and art.
- Volunteers made numerous bookmarks for Rydal Park. 35 teens colored more than 1,000 bookmarks!
- Tiny art and Peep dioramas are on display, so check them out!
- Q Crew (Shannon Collins co-host of rainbow connections) did outdoor photo shoots of the teens, asking them to choose shots that displayed their confidence and strength.

Upcoming Program Highlights

- Taylor Swift Trivia Night for teens and adults
- Teen fleece blanket making for small animals at Abington SPCA and suicide prevention training
- PrideFest

Roslyn Library

- Wonderful programs continue there. Storytimes are very popular and outreach very successful. Staff displayed paper stars around the branch. Two middle school girls loved the stars so much that the staff offered them to the girls to take home.

Facilities

- No major issues (phew!).
- New projector was installed in the community room.
- Stage for the next Magilner Series concert was delivered and will be ready to go for the next concert!

ADULT LITERACY:

- Erica, a Souderton ESL teacher, is the new part-time coordinator. We are excited to have her on board.
- Large numbers of students continue to reap the benefits of this programming. Students come from a multitude of countries and have a wide range of needs.
- Elizabeth shared a picture of one student's recent naturalization ceremony.
- Maurie Markman commented on the value of documenting the impact of these programs so we have qualitative data to support and sustain these programs moving forward. Elizabeth does keep track of these impact stories.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Friends – Terry Biansco: April was a very busy month! Jennifer Weiner event had 7 Friends volunteers that night. The Board had effusive praise for the Friends work at this event! The Friends' Plant and Book Sale was a huge success and earned over \$4,000! Ayana Mathis author event will take place at the Sutherland Building at PSU Abington on June 4 and tickets are \$10. Friends will host a potluck brunch on June 8 at 9:45 a.m.
- B. Personnel – Nancy Wright will schedule Liz's annual evaluation and will reach out to couple of new board members, one person in community and one staff person for input.
- C. Development/Long-Range Planning -- Maurie Markman has planned a call to discuss plans moving forward. He will present ideas at May Board meeting and will compose an outline of a high-level plan, including a rough idea of projected costs.
- D. Facilities – Joe Milano: No updates.
- E. Finance and Investment– Emily Cooper: No updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Distributed to all Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Michelle reiterated support for the new website. Diane reminded us that Briar Bush reopened on April 19th. Giveaway tree opportunity moved to Crestmont.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Joe Milano to adjourn the meeting of the Board, seconded by Elaine Cassidy Shanahan. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Our next Board meeting is May 22, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Joe Milano will attend next Friends meeting on May 11, 2024, at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Cassidy Shanahan
Board Secretary