

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

Date: June 24, 2024

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Joe Milano.

PRESENT: Joe Milano, Emily Cooper, Lauren Greaves, Maurie Markman, Nancy Wright, Daniel Kaye, Elaine Cassidy Shanahan, and Liz Fitzgerald were in attendance along with Dimitra Seiler, Terry Bianco, Michelle Washington, Diane Moskal, and Adele Kubel.

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

PRESENTATION: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Slight modifications are proposed for the 2024 budget to reflect information received after the initial budget was approved and ensure that State Aid is no longer used to fund the book budget. Modifications include decreases in costs for Meeting Room, Lost Books, and Township Appropriations – Longevity and an increase in Transfers from Special Income.

Motion was made by Joe Milano to approve the revised 2024 budget, seconded by Daniel Kaye. Motion passed.

- The May Treasurer's report was also reviewed. Fund Balances on Page 2 and Assets on Page 2 depict similar figures, except Assets on Page 2 include interest variances as well.

The May report has been reviewed and will be filed for audit.

- Looking ahead to the proposed 2025 budget, the Township passed a 3-year plan to allow 4% cost of living increase for library staff compensation over next three years. Other examples: Under Utilities – amounts allocated to water increased, gas and electric will remain same; under Operations – increases are proposed for postage, conference/travel/education, audit, and MCLINC.

Motion was made by Joe Milano to approve the proposed 2025 budget, seconded by Emily Cooper. Motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Personnel and Library Business

- June Highlights included author Ayana Mathis's speaking engagement at PSU Abington, Pridefest, and Summer Reading Kickoff Party. All were huge successes with over 1000 attended all three events!
- Congrats to Sara Huff, who was nominated for Best Practices award from the Pennsylvania Library Association for Power of the Pen. She will present this program and receive her award in October.
- Carolyn DuBois is retiring in August. ATPL is in process of hiring a new Youth Services Librarian and will soon post for a new Head of Children's Department.

Strategic Plan

- Pop-Ups in the Park will take place Wednesdays for seven weeks in different Township parks. They include activities, registration opportunities for library cards and Summer Reading, and free lunches for kids.
- Budget requests for Township are due July 12.

Reference

- Mimi Satterthwaite determined how additional funds from the Book Endowment can be allocated.

Program Highlights

- Over 500 people attended Summer Reading Kickoff.
- Come and enjoy the beautiful murals that adorn the walls of both of our library buildings.
- Pridefest moved indoors because of weather. Great turnout! Five Township Commissioners attended.
- Teen Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, July 6. Twenty teen vendors will show and sell their pieces.

Children's and Young Adults

- Kudos to Carolyn and Sara, who made 21 presentations at 8 schools to 2700 students!

Roslyn

- Music and Movement class has been quite popular, with 81 people attending.
- Meg went to Roslyn Elementary and attended Roslyn Community Day and other local events for outreach.
- Summer Reading activities at Roslyn are filling up.

Tech services

- The library generated \$1,100 in revenue from recycling various books.

Facilities

- Jim has worked really hard beautifying our library spaces. Thank you, Jim.

ADULT LITERACY REPORT:

- Four classes are held each week.
- 77 students and 78 tutors actively are engaged in this program.
- Erica Elrod started officially on May 8.
- Potluck Appreciation Dinner was wonderful. A great representation of what this Township is and what the library can provide. Students brought food and families to celebrate together in a very moving, special event. Discussed the importance of creating video content that highlights events and programs like this, perhaps including testimonials or interviews with students and tutors from this program, for instance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Friends – Terry Biansco: Ayana Mathis event was a huge success! Hope to do more events of this kind next year. The Friends Annual Meeting and Potluck was held on June 8. Terry was impressed with how many families approached the Friends during the Summer Reading Kickoff event saying that their young children pushed their parents to attend because they heard about it from library staff who came to their schools. Liz recognized Terry and the Friends for their efforts in working the numerous events throughout June. Some of our new video content, which we hope to create, should highlight the impressive work of the Friends. Daniel suggested we might get raw footage from kids and teens at some events and edit their content.
- B. Personnel – Nancy Wright: No updates.
- C. Development/Long-Range Planning -- Maurie Markman: Committee hopes to hire a consultant to do formal analysis to inform capital campaign. Brainstorming ways to get Commissioners' buy-in for this project.
- D. Facilities – Joe Milano: No updates.
- E. Finance and Investment– Emily Cooper: Emily will meet with Ralph for check-in meeting at end of summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Distributed to all Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Adele Kubel expressed strong need for new library building in Roslyn and shared that she started a petition with nearly 300 signatures in support of that new library building. She complimented Liz's strong leadership and highlighted some of the great work the library does, such as Pop-Ups in the Park. Adele prefers that future library events not take place on June 6.
- Michelle Washington expressed gratitude in support of the library's wonderful work. She thanked the Friends, Liz, and the Board for their efforts.
- Diane Moskal pointed out the value in seeking guidance from local Library Directors, such as Upper Dublin's Cheri Fiory, to get advice on working successfully with Township Commissioners. She encouraged Daniel Kaye to see if Rydal Park might arrange for vans to bring seniors to the upcoming Teen Craft Fair.
- Joe emphasized the importance of Pridefest in how it showed acceptance for all residents. He also noted the importance of respecting the historical significance of June 6.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Joe Milano to adjourn the Board meeting, seconded by Daniel Kaye. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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

Emily Cooper will attend Friends meeting on September 14, 2024, at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Cassidy Shanahan
Board Secretary