

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

Date: September 23, 2024

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

PRESENT: Joe Milano, Emily Cooper, Lauren Greaves, Maurie Markman, Daniel Kaye, Elaine Cassidy Shanahan, and Liz Fitzgerald were in attendance along with Elena Maddox, Terry Biansco, Michelle Washington, and Diane Moskal.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of July 22, 2024, was made by Emily Cooper, seconded by Maurie Markman. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION: No presentations were made.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- The July and August Treasurer's Reports were reviewed. ATPL made financial gains both months.
- August maintenance costs were over budget but spending in this category was typical for that time of year.
- ATPL was grateful to receive \$1,650 from the Friends.
- Given an anticipated interest rate drop, Maurie Markman made a motion to "break" with no penalty the ATPL's current CD with Penn Community Bank before its October 31, 2024, maturity date and open a new 24-month breakable CD at 4.35% through Penn Community Bank. Motion was seconded by Joe Milano. Motion passed.
- The July 2024 and August 2024 Treasurer's report can be submitted and filed for audit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Personnel and Library Business

- ATPL was re-certified as a PA Forward Gold Star Library 2024. Fourth time receiving that distinction!
- Summer Reading wrapped up a very successful season. Many participants, wonderful summer.
- Welcome, Elena Maddox, ATPL's new Head of Children's Services!
- On September 30, ACTIVE students will bring their mobile coffee shop to the library for Coffee Day.

Strategic Plan

- Pop-ups in the Park wrapped up in August. Big success!
- Mimi Sattleshwaite and Laura McGough will present on the library's extensive summer outreach activities at next month's Pennsylvania Library Association Conference.

Circulation

- On July 9, all hotspots, graphing calculators, pickleball sets, and Chromebooks were checked out or reserved.

Reference

- Mimi Sattleshwaite and Brian Marino informed Rydal Park residents about how to use and request Playaways.
- Large-print books are now moved closer to the front door. Patrons seem to like this change.
- *NY Times* Best Books of 21st Century display upstairs has been very popular.

Program Highlights

- Ballet X was spectacular! Part of the Elaine Wolfson Magilner Memorial Concert Series.

Technology

- Polaris is now updated.

Children's and Young Adults

- Children's Family Fun Nights were successful this summer. More than 100 people attended each one.
- Taste-Test Adventure Around the World very well-received. Kids did blind taste-testing of international snacks.
- Susie Hawkins of the Children's Department starting a monthly home-school STEM program. This program will be offered 2x/month moving forward.

Program Highlights for Children's and Young Adults

- AbTab will be starting a blog on ATPL website.
- Book Character Scavenger Hunt had 278 participants.
- Intro to Knitting and two Dungeons & Dragons clubs will begin this fall.

Roslyn

- Hosted several big events at the end of summer. Every program had a STEM activity and connection to a book.

Facilities

- A new track was added to divide the Community room into two equal-sized rooms. The Community Room painted as well.

ADULT LITERACY REPORT:

- The program continues to see a consistent stream of English language learners.
- 60 students currently meet with tutors.
- 190 tutoring hours logged over the past two months.
- Erica Elrod, part-time assistant with Adult Literacy, will start teaching one of the evening classes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Friends – Terry Biansco: At the September 14th meeting, Friends donated \$15K to library. Book and Plant Sale taking place this Saturday, September 28. Event will include native plant sale, bake sale and pretzel sale. Volunteers enjoyed the luncheon. Kudos to circulation staff for selling raffle baskets.
- B. Personnel – Nancy Wright: The committee will meet in the next week to plan next steps.
- C. Development/Long-Range Planning -- Maurie Markman: Liz plugged new building at recent Township meeting. Eventual plan is to hire consultants to do formal assessment. Joe discussed possibility of the committee touring Kennett library, which was recently renovated, to discuss process and renovations. Elena formerly worked at Springfield Library while it was renovated so the committee will consider touring that library as well.
- D. Facilities – Joe Milano: No updates.
- E. Finance and Investment– Emily Cooper: No updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: November 5 is Election Day! Library is closed to the public but open for polling. Formerly, staff had to take vacation time if they opted to not be in the building on Election Day. Liz proposed that we revise the policy so that staff who choose to work on Election Day can be offered flex time to be used the following week. Those who do not work shifts will have paid time off. A motion was made by Maurie Markman to strike the ATPL's current Election Day policy that required staff to take vacation time if they were not present in the building that day and revise its policy so that staff receive paid vacation time if they do not work in the building on Election Day. Motion was seconded by Daniel Kaye. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Distributed to all Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Diane says automobile fans should check out the Simone Foundation Museum pass from the Library of Things. The Simone Foundation Museum's exhibit is rated among the top ten automobile collections in the country. Michelle wanted to say that the native plant garden is working, attracting local butterflies and birds. There is a lot of excitement about the raffle baskets. A warm welcome to Elena and gratitude for Liz's care and thoughtfulness for all library staff.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Our next Board meeting is October 28, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Nancy Wright will attend Friends meeting in the Library Community Room on November 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Cassidy Shanahan
Board Secretary