

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

Date: October 28, 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, Lauren Greaves, Daniel Kaye, Elaine Cassidy Shanahan, and Liz Fitzgerald were in attendance along with Terry Bianco, Michelle Washington and Diane Moskal.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2024, was made by Joe Milano, seconded by Lauren Greaves. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION: No presentations were made.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The September Treasurer's Report was reviewed.

- Both endowments look robust.
- Friends contributed a very generous \$15,525!
- Accounts generated significant interest totaling approximately \$8,000.
- \$25K appropriated from township for Adult Literacy has been spent. However, Adult Literacy will utilize funds from Special Income to cover its costs for the rest of year.

The September 2024 Treasurer's report can be submitted and filed for audit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Personnel and Library Business

- Several ATPL staff people participated in events at the PA Library Association's Annual Conference in Harrisburg. Sara Huff received a best practices award for the Power of the Pen.
- Liz will begin a two-year term as the next VP of the Board of Directors of MCLINC starting January 1, 2025.
- The ATPL sadly mourns the loss of Susan Wu. A celebration of her life is planned for November 15.

Strategic Plan

- Fall Festival at Crestmont Park on October 5 was a huge success!

Reference

- Michelle Washington is now helping with magazine collection maintenance.

Program Highlights

- Adults – Vincent van Ghost postcards were very fun and creative.
- How to Spot and Avoid Scams helpful event planned in partnership with Joel Elias and the police department.
- Constitution Day was well-attended.
- Dr. Ala Stanford speaking event was wonderful. Thank you for all who attended and made it happen.

Technology

- New internet provider switch caused an internet outage for some time but was quickly resolved.

Children's and Young Adults

- Punkin' Chunkin' at PSU Abington involved launching pumpkins with a large trebuchet!
- Halloween Costume Exchange is still available for interested parties.
- Board games are being circulated in the Children's Department. Will soon start loaning video games.

Young Adults

- Sleeping Mat Project this summer made five sleeping mats for unhoused people.

Technical Services

- Wireless FM transmitter will allow patrons to play Playaways in their vehicles.
- Belinda Fedorowicz met with Roslyn staff to give them tips on book mending.

Roslyn

- Gardening program with master gardeners very successful program. Seasonal gardening program is up next.
- Playdate on Avondale also a big hit!

Facilities

- Jim working on panic buttons to make sure all are operational.

ADULT LITERACY REPORT:

- The program continues to see a consistent stream of English language learners.
- Tutors and instructors continue to meet the needs of all incoming and current students.
- September tutor support meetings conducted last month; more are planned moving forward.

We talked about author events in light of Dr. Stanford's recent speaking engagement, including process and planning. PSU Abington is a very willing partner with ATPL and hopes to engage with community more actively and share its spaces and campus. Moving forward, it seems logical for the two organizations to share costs for these types of events. We talked about forming a committee to plan future author events of this kind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Friends – Terry Biansco: Plant and Book Sale was a huge success and brought in more profit than it had in years! Half-price sale held recently. Friends participated in the Dr. Ala Stanford event with eight volunteers working it on short notice. Capricorn Books sold a lot of books that at the Stanford event. Hosted a lunch for staff during National Friends of Library week. Winterfest will take place December 14. Jewelry auction takes place from November 1 – 30. It's a very exciting event! The Friends will host a bake sale on Election Day with goodies people can take and go.
- B. Personnel – Nancy Wright: No updates. We will review Liz in April.
- C. Development/Long-Range Planning -- Maurie Markman: Joe Milano mentioned that the committee will take a field trip on November 12 to the Kennett library.
- D. Facilities – Joe Milano: No updates.
- E. Finance and Investment– Emily Cooper: The committee hopes to meet with Ralph in the coming weeks. We discussed inviting Ralph to the January 2025 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Distributed to all Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Diane noted that the auditorium at PSU Abington also hosts music events, which the library might consider planning as well.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Our next Board meeting is November 25, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Maurie Markman 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