

Phillips Public Library Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2022

Trustees present (in person or via zoom):

Bruce Marshall, Becky Steinbach, Meredith Hueckman, Galen Azbell, Brittany Weisrock, Jenny Markle, Marc Peterson, Laura Tomaszewski (joined by zoom at 5:18)

Trustees absent:

None

Staff present:

Rebecca Puhl, Jody Eckert (zoom)

Call to order/establishment of a quorum

Meeting opened by Becky S. at 5:07 p.m.

Public Comments

Individuals signed up to speak for 3 minutes each. The original list of names is available. Summaries below:

Shirley Smith--It's Perfectly Normal is a wonderful, informative book for children of an appropriate age; the only reason to object is to promote ignorance. The public library has a mission; the people who are challenging books are against this goal. They are furious and narrow minded. Librarians are professionals and heroes for standing up to these individuals. The board needs to stand up to them also.

Jackie Barnes--My child was sexually abused. This book is similar but in a visual form. Sexual abuse is terrible and requires years of therapy. (Jackie also submitted a handout for the board.) Also, where are the bylaws? I would like to see them.

Comments on questions from the public submitted at the October meeting

None submitted at the October meeting

Communication and Correspondence

All letters were sent out via email to the board members prior to the meeting.

Approval of 10/27/2022 minutes

Motion made by Brittany

Seconded by Meredith

To approve October 27, 2022 minutes as presented

Motion passed.

Approval of 11/10/2022 minutes

Motion made by Bruce

Seconded by Brittany
To approve November 11, 2022 minutes as presented
Motion passed.

Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report

One page summary on all accounts provided; more details available through Becky if desired. A more detailed accounting will be provided in January. No action needed.

2. Director's Report

Becky gave an oral expansion of her written report. The Thursday after school program is off to a good start. Adult BINGO went well. Jake and Becky will be weeding; they estimate about $\frac{1}{6}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ of the collection. Becky's conference went well. No action needed.

3. Staff Meeting Minutes.

Written minutes provided. No action needed.

Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion/Action on Library Hours/COVID-19/Mask Requirements

No changes made. No action needed.

2. Discussion/Action on Library building project

No action needed.

New Business:

1. Discussion/Action on 2023 Budget

Brittany and Jenny presented and explained the new budget and the subcommittee's reasoning behind the changes, especially utilities, periodicals, wages, and library materials. They answered questions about board member concerns.

Meredith is concerned about the low circulation and about cutting books and advertising; those areas should be funded rather than a 7% raise for the director, especially when an official review has not been done for two years.

Motion made by Brittany

Seconded by Marc

To approve the adjusted full/part time budget for 2023 with the stipulation of evaluating the book budget in 3 months (March), with good record-keeping by Becky. If more book money is needed, Becky will ask the board for up to \$5000 for books.

Roll call vote:

Becky--yes

Brittany--yes

Bruce--yes

Galen--abstain

Jenny--yes
Laura--yes
Marc--yes
Meredith-no

Motion carried

2. Discussion/Action on Library Bylaws/Board Member Code of Conduct

Becky will fill in the blanks in the sample bylaws (including an annual meeting in May, a quorum of 3, etc.) and present them to the board for consideration as soon as reasonably possible. A vote will not be taken before the January meeting.

3. Discussion/Action on challenged Library materials

It's Perfectly Normal by Robie H. Harris

Bruce and Jenny are both concerned about the content of this book and do not believe it is appropriate for children and could be used to harm them. They both think the book should not have been purchased. Meredith confirmed that Chief Hauschild said that if an adult showed it to a child, the adult could be arrested and charged with a felony. *Safe Sport* would classify this book as abuse if shown to a child. Galen and Becky S. doubt that felony charges would actually happen or be appropriate. Bruce offered that he would be dismissed as a Scout leader if he had this book around the scouts. Becky S. offered, based on her time at Embrace, that this material helps to keep children safe from abuse. Brittany added that the effect of the illustrations is similar to that of diagrams in health classes at school. She believes that the book is certainly not for everyone but should be available for children at parents' discretion.

Motion made by Bruce

Seconded by Jenny

To remove this book from the collection and send it back to the publisher.

Roll call vote:

Becky--no
Brittany--no
Bruce--yes
Galen--no
Jenny--yes
Laura--yes
Marc--no
Meredith--yes

Motion failed

Motion made by Meredith

Seconded by Jenny

To move this book to the adult section, preferably to a parenting resource area.

Roll call vote:

Becky--no

Brittany--yes
Bruce--no
Galen--no
Jenny--yes
Laura--yes
Marc--yes
Meredith--yes

Motion passed

4. Election of Officers

Motion made by Jenny

Seconded by Galen

To appoint Brittany as President (to fill the vacancy left by Rick Morgan) upon her acceptance.

Motion made by Bruce

Seconded by Galen

To close the nomination and ask the secretary to cast a unanimous vote for Brittany to be president.

Motion passed.

All other officers remain in their current roles. Officers to be elected in May at the annual meeting.

5. Discussion/Action on Empty Board Seats

Bruce gave an update and suggested action to be taken at the December meeting regarding a document to be given to the City and the County regarding suggestions for how to go about appointing new trustees. The document would be advisory only; the mayor with city council approval as well as the county chairperson with county board approval could choose to go about appointments in their own way.

6. Approve November 2022 bills

Motion made by Becky S.

Seconded by Galen

To approve November 2022 bills "above the line" in the amount of \$4927.97 and "Below the line" in the amount of \$0.00

Motion carried.

6. Reading of questions from the public for comment at the November meeting

None offered

7. Other new business to add to the agenda for the next meeting

None offered.

8. Set date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be held *Thursday, January 5, 2023*, at 5:05 p.m., at the city council room. A zoom link will be provided if possible.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Jenny

Seconded by Becky

Motion passed.

Brittany adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Markle