

Phillips Public Library Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2023 (regular October meeting)

Trustees present (in person or via zoom):

Galen Azbell (zoom), Jenny Markle, Bruce Marshall, Marc Peterson, Kristi Speer, Laura Tomaszewski (zoom)

Trustees absent:

Brian Ernst, Meredith Heuckman, Becky Steinbach, Beth Tenut, Brittany Weisrock

Staff present:

Rebecca Puhl, Jody Eckert (zoom), Evelyn Azbell (zoom)

Call to order/establishment of a quorum

Meeting opened by Bruce at 5:32 p.m.

Public Comments

Lynn Boers--Expressed concern with Becky's summary of Lynn's meeting with her regarding the book *Flamer*. She feels her words were twisted and discredited. She finds the summary offensive and a distortion of what she meant. For many years, she felt respected as a public health nurse. She believes *Flamer* (and similar books) are harmful to children with developing minds. She will not back down from standing for what is good for children.

Comments on questions from the public submitted at the previous meeting

- Question from Lynn Boers: *can we receive a copy of the challenge report which is presented to the board members?* Answer. Once the meeting happens, the report is public record. *This question was mentioned during the meeting but not dealt with due to it's being answered at the previous meeting and it's being an agenda item.

Communication and Correspondence

Approval of 9/28/2023 minutes

Motion made by Marc

Seconded by Galen

To approve the September 28, 2023, as presented.

Motion passed.

Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report

Detailed reports provided. Very little change from last month. Bruce would like to move monies that are likely to sit for a time into a CD. Further discussion next month. No action needed.

2. Director's Report

Becky provided comments on her written report. Becky and Jake are excited about being welcomed into the school and hope to make library materials available for checkout. Discussion

followed regarding how to make sure parents know that PPL materials could be coming home with their children and how to opt out of their children being able to check out PPL materials at the school if they wish. No action needed.

3. Staff Meeting Minutes

Report provided. Jenny asked about the instruction regarding leaving new materials on display longer. Do we not have enough materials? Becky believes there was a glitch in the timing of orders, not a lack of funds. No action needed.

4. Circulation report

Becky offered stats for 2020-2023 by category. Becky is hoping to offer more items that people in the community want in order to shift our circ percentage a bit to increase local checkouts to about 70%. We would like to know how AV circ compares from now to pre-covid numbers. Does that account for some of the decreased circ? Becky is working to get those numbers. Jenny asked for the total books owned by age group in order to put the circ numbers into perspective. No action needed.

Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion/Action on Library Building Project

Page 18 of the packet lists 4 local woodworkers to ask about custom office furniture. Kristi mentioned Great Northern Cabinetry in Rib Lake as another option, but they are outside of the county. Bruce mentioned that we have a number of other builders, but he doesn't know if they make cabinetry/office furniture: JC (Nick Gabay) and Terry Belan.

2. 2024 Budget update

The city has offered a 3% increase going forward. Also, the city agreed to use ARPA funds to cover the deficit of \$3700 in the 2024 budget. Becky is also looking into grants and funding from local and other sources to stop the reduction of the funding from the county due to the application of the legal formula. Becky would like to spend money on a new copier next year to boost overhead cost. Bruce mentioned that the county could approve to fund the library based on 80% rather than the required 70%. Alternatively, the county funding could be based on a budget rather than a circ based percentage alone. Neither of these options are guaranteed.

Jenny suggested reducing AV budgets down to \$1500 each and putting \$1000 back into Adult books based on high circ numbers from adult books. Becky agreed and also mentioned that Large Print books might be available through a grant, which would help maximize adult book purchases also. Note: The city must approve the budget, especially the salaries. Once the budget is approved by the city, the board can move funds around in the course of the year as needs arise and trends become apparent.

Motion made by Kristi

Seconded by Marc

To recommend the proposed budget with amendments as mentioned above to the City.

Motion passed.

3. Discussion/Action Library Friends Group

Becky has a list of interested persons. She will contact one or two people to ask if someone would like to provide leadership. Bruce is hopeful that a friends group not be a partisan group but rather one that truly supports the library for practical benefits and does not get into policy or politics.

4. Discussion/Action on Library Mission/Future/Survey

Jenny offered a few tweaks to the survey questions. Discussion put off until next month.

New Business:

1. Approval of October 2023 Bills

Motion made by Jenny

Seconded by Galen

To approve the October 2023 bills as presented--\$5019.39 above the line and \$356.43 below the line. (This is an adjustment to the amount in the packet due to the board's desire to delay one payment for the storage unit until after January 1st.)

Motion passed.

2. Discussion/Action on YA Sectioning

Discussion: Becky she is working towards sectioning the whole library by genre. She is looking for approval to add an inspirational section and a romance section to the fiction areas in the YA space; these categories will trump other genres in the books. Becky wants all people to find what they are looking for when they come into the library. We are looking for a fun name, too. Jenny's daughter wants to call the inspirational section "Scrubbed." Galen asked what makes a book "inspirational"? Becky explained that if the content is religious or the author is a Christian, it is "inspirational." Bruce understood that this is not necessarily a system-wide practice but believes it will meet the interests of our community well and thanked Becky.

Motion made by Jenny

Seconded by Kristi

To create genre categories in the YA area, including, but not necessarily limited to, "Inspirational" and "Romance."

Motion passed.

3. Reading of questions from the public for comment at the November Meeting

None submitted

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

Discussion/Action regarding open records laws related to meeting documents

Discussion/Action regarding opening one or more CDs for board controlled funds

5. Set date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 30, at **5:30 p.m.**, in the Library community room. A zoom link will be provided.

Adjournment:

Bruce adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Markle