

Petoskey District Library

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 25, 2022

Call to order at 5:00 by President Ann Ingles

Present: Kim Block, Ann Ingles, Trevor Nelson, Mike Atchison, Amy Janssens, Isabel Dunn, and Val Meyerson (Library Director). (Quorum requirements met)

Agenda Approved: Val added item to close early on October 7, 2022.

Oath of Office: All board members took the oath of office.

Minutes Approved: No changes.

Bills Approved: No changes. Bills were approved.

Public Comments:

- Robert Staford (Bear Creek Township): addressed the Petoskey News Review article about banning books.
- Brenda Kulbieda (Bear Creek Township): is concerned about children's books
- Shelley Horniman (Bear Creek Township): is concerned about politicizing issues.
- Nisa Kessler (Resort Township): clarified the process of book bundles and emphasized the library is a place for everyone.
- Kate Scollen (Bear Creek Township): commented that the library is for everyone and a place to learn about marginalized communities.
- Herb Friske (Springvale Township): is concerned about a gay agenda and quoted the Bible.
- Mary Sue Prantera (Bear Creek Township): spoke about family life.
- Kathy Kenroy (City of Petoskey): was here to observe.

Treasurer's Report: Amy reported the library is on target for the budget goals for the year.

Board Members' Comments: None

Friends of the Petoskey Library (Susan Wagoner):

- The book sale during sidewalk sales made \$3362.93. 13 volunteers helped out. The Women's Resource Center will take the oldest of the books (500-600) to sell.
- A Night at the Library happens October 7 from 6-9 pm. The Civic Theater is loaning costumes to the library. The silent auction will focus more on activities and experiences versus tangible items.

Director's Report (Val Meyerson):

- The summer reading programs wrapped up.
- 50 children were tutored this summer in the Growing Readers program. Ice cream "lake effects" were donated by Corner Scoops for graduation. This will launch again in October funded by another grant.
- Teachers will be trained by Jane Garver and earn CTE credits to prepare for the Americans and the Holocaust exhibit.
- Statistics show circulation and computer use is up. Meeting rooms are also very popular.
- 9 of 10 phone calls to the director were in support of the library concerning the PNR article.
- Val clarified that the library provides services for everyone in the community. They often partner with other groups on a regular basis. An example is partnering with the LGBTQ Alliance who was allowed to start their parade outside the library.
- Val encouraged people to come in and look at the collection and to ask for what they need.
- Anne asked about the drainage problem and inspection. Val reported that the basement is dried out, repaired and painted. There was a \$500 deductible for insurance.
- Amy asked who volunteers contact to tutor and Val said they should contact her.

Board Members' Comments:

- Amy welcomed the 20 people in the audience.

Unfinished Business: None**New Business:**

- 2023 Budget-
 - Val pointed out the budget includes the capital improvement program. We have another month to look at the budget with an added full narrative before approval. Mike commented that Val did a great job making the budget digestible for the board. Kim asked about the technology cycle. Val said next year will include a new plan and that computers, for example, are on a 5-7 year cycle.
- 2023 Goals
 - Val pointed out the rebranding and web design goals.
 - The new app is delayed due to the vendor. The beta test will take place next week.
- Extended library hours
 - Should the library stay open until 7 four days a week? Staff would rather leave at 6:00. Kim suggested staying open longer on one night. Val asked board members to ask community members what they would like to see the library do.
- Personal Policy
 - Wording was added about unscheduled absences. This was approved by consensus.
- Grants
 - Emmet County Senior Millage - this grant will assist with Bibliobags and visiting senior living housing. Mike motioned to approve the grant as written. Amy seconded it and it was passed unanimously.
 - Michigan State Historic Preservation Grant - These funds would replace the


Carnegie's windows and fix the facade and seepage issues. Trevor motioned to approve the resolution for the State Historic Preservation Grant. Mike seconded it and it passed unanimously.

- Capital Improvement Plan
 - Val explained that we need to agree on a company to create bid documents. Mike motioned to use OHM to create bid documents for the critical first year repairs to the library and the Carnegie buildings. Amy seconded it. It passed unanimously. Val said Amanda from OHM was helpful with the grant writing.
- Early Closure - Closing the library on October 7 at 3:00 pm was approved by consensus. This will be done to prepare for the Night at the Library and will be posted ahead of time.

Public Comments:

- Roberta Spartora (Bear Creek Township): mentioned a 1982 Supreme Court Case and mentioned Congress investigating book banning. She would like to see balance.
- Joe Hoffman (Bear Creek Township): mentioned the library's teen website. Worried about an agenda.
- Anne Lewis (City of Petoskey): Friends of the Library do not pay the director's salary.
- Nisa Kessler (Resort Township): the library is for everyone even LGBTQ and different displays are set up for different times of the year.
- Brenda Kulbieda (Bear Creek Township): people should be able to just come into the library. She would like more parent input.
- Don Mapes (Little Traverse Township): A light has been shined on libraries.
- Bill Deland (City of Petoskey): There are limits on free speech. Need to understand issues.
- Mary Jean Meyerson (City of Petoskey): grateful to the library and that all viewpoints are represented.
- Marty Sampson (Resort Township): grateful that the library was here for her non-white daughter
- Emily Meyerson (City of Petoskey): step daughter was helped by the library
- Anne Ingles (board President): asked if the audience would like to attend training on book selection and the first amendment.

Adjournment: Ann adjourned the meeting at 6:25.



Submitted by Kim Block, Secretary