

## **Petoskey District Library**

Board meeting minutes: 9/22/22

Called to order at 5 pm by Ann

Present: Ann Ingles, Mike Atchison, Trevor Nelson, Isabel Dunn.

Absent: Kim Block, Amy Janssens

Agenda Approved

Minutes from August meeting approved by consensus

August bills approved by consensus

Presentations:

- OHM Proposal for Design/Bid Work – Sean Tabacsko
  - Sean outlined the proposed contract. The board was in possession of the complete contract. Val asked when the first projects would begin. Sean said they will start designing the bid documents now, including design work, with the hopes that some work will begin late spring.
- Val Meyerson gave a lively and informative slide presentation on library collection development and how the 1st Amendment shapes our policies

Treasurer's Report on Financial Statements - no questions from the board

Reports:

- Friends of the Petoskey Library - Sue Moffatt. Reminded everyone about the upcoming Night at the Library fundraiser on October 7th , 6 - 9 pm
- Director's Report - by Val
  - Business is booming. Most metrics are up dramatically over August of 2021.
  - Infant and children's programming has been active lately. Nice to have them back in the building
  - Discussion regarding the \$12k grant we believe we are getting from Emmet Co. The board discussed the possibility of turning down the \$ so that the Friendship Center doesn't have to cut programming. Val believes the grants will officially be awarded at the October meeting of Emmet Co. commissioners meeting. It was decided that Val would discuss this with the County Clerk and report back on this at the October board meeting.

Board Members' Comments: none

#### Unfinished Business:

- Discussion of extending library hours
  - Still have shorter hours than pre-Covid
  - Val spoke with employees and comments were all over the board
  - Per Val: 5 - 6pm on Fridays have been very slow in the past, but lots of patrons like this
  - Mike asked Val her opinion. Val would like to see Mon - Thurs 10 - 7 as an initial change.
  - Trevor stated he would like to have Kim and Amy present before a decision is made on this.
  - Board decided to continue discussion and Val will try to narrow this down with employees.

#### New Business:

- 2023 – Budget
  - Val highlighted significant changes from last year's budget and other notable items
  - Val emphasized the effectiveness of mailing a hard copy of the quarterly newsletter. The budget increases the quarterly mailing from 2 in 2022 to 3 in 2023 with plans to mail all 4 in 2024

#### Public Comments:

Ann read the relevant portion of our by-laws regarding public comments.

1. Joann Astolfi - city of Petoskey - very pleased with mailed hard copy of the newsletter

2. Carla Buckmaster - Bear Creek Twp - concerned that the husband of the PDL's teen services librarian was ejected from the BCT recent meeting and his influence on his spouse and the trickle-down effect. Also concerned about certain books being featured in library book packages targeted at children. Not asking for any books to be banned or for BCT to de-fund the library. Emphasized that we should educate, not indoctrinate. Asked the board to consider dismissing the teen librarian and better oversee choice of programming.

- Val commented that BCT chose not to have representation on our board.

3. Tom Beukema - City of Petoskey - took issue with Carla's comment "indoctrinate".

4. Meredith Kennedy - Odawa member - Was at the recent BCT meeting and the man who was ejected was being subjected to homophobic slurs by another attendee. Thought a fight might break out. Loves her library. Would love to see hours extended to

7 pm. Says we should accept the \$12k senior millage grant. She says there is a reason they invited other organizations to apply, other than the 4 organizations who usually get all the grant funds.

5. Joe Murphy - city of Petoskey - was at BCT meeting and said supervisors were doing nothing about the slurs being directed at the man, who finally stood up for himself. Spoke passionately about not tolerating book banning and that people should take personal responsibility and supervise their own children.

6. Rebeca Otto - Littlefield twp - grateful for use of library. Her child was on suicide watch at age 12 because no safe space for her. Library has provided her a safe space. Her child and others like her can see themselves in these books.

7. Carol McHale - city of Petoskey - offered her support for the library and the board.

8. Clare Forster - thanked the board and Val. Believes it is important to promote rather than simply offer materials that promote diversity. This helps develop empathy in the community. Agrees that educate vs indoctrinate is subjective.

9. Tom McHale - city of Petoskey - all kinds of people in the world and likes how the library is inclusive.

10. Danielle Schopp - city of Petoskey - proud of the library and its programming

11. Lazarus Mills - Tamarack Trail - this library helped them understand themselves as a trans person. Thank you to the library for making me feel better.

12. Becky Carpenter - city of Petoskey - Appreciates what the library is doing. Works for a new company and has been impressed with their support for trans employees and family members. That this is where the world is going and the library should keep step. Thanked the library for doing so.

13. Joe Hoffman - Bear Creek Twp - doesn't remember being offered a seat on library board 6 years ago when they joined the library. Thinks that each township that financially supports PDL should have a voting member on PDL board.

- Val reminded Joe that Twp chose not to be part of the district library and have a seat on the board. This resulted in a smaller financial obligation to the library.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm

Mike Atchison

Faithfully submitted on this the 22nd day of September, 2022

By Michael J. Atchison, acting Secretary