

PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2020 6-7 PM

Roll Call

Members Present:

Tony Aguilar, Anita Bench, Avital Chatto, Joan Dagle, Deb Del Gais, Andre Herrera, Rochelle Lee, Joseph Morra, Paige Raposa, Patricia Raub, Pam Vogel, Gregory Waksmulski, Zachary Weinberger, Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge

14 members

* Andre Herrera left the meeting at 6:18 pm changing the number to 13 members present

Members Absent:

Kendra Brewster, Jordan Day, Jean Lamb, Ellen Schwartz and Cyndie Wilmot

5 members

PCL Executive Staff Present:

Cheryl Space, Sue Gibbs & Sara Huber

14 members present make a quorum. Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Patricia Raub, Board President.

* Andre Herrera left the meeting at 6:18 pm changing the number of participants to 13.

Mission Moment:

Garrett Locke, Mt. Pleasant Library Youth Services staff member, discussed a story time project he recorded for young students that went very well and was greatly appreciated by students, parents and fellow PCL staff.

*** Andre Herrera left the meeting at 6:18 pm changing the number of voting members to 13**

Approval of April and May 2020 Board Meeting Minutes:

Pam Vogel motioned to accept *April Board minutes as amended*; Joan Dagle seconded the motion.

Yes 12 No 0 Abstained 1 (Gregory Waksmulski) Total votes: 13

Pam Vogel motioned to accept *May Board minutes* and Tony Aguilar seconded the motion.

Yes 11 Abstained 2 (Paige Raposa, Gregory Waksmulski) Total votes: 13

Board President Report: Patricia thanked everyone for their commitment and hard work as volunteers supporting PCL's mission, staff and programs.

Finance Committee Report

Sue provided an overview of the finances for PCL and referred to exhibits included in the Finance Committee Report.

Other comments on PCL’s finances include:

- PCL received \$20k from Councilwoman Ryan for book shelving at Mt. Pleasant Library
- PCL received a \$60,000 CDBG COVID-19 Response grant from the City Planning Dept. The grant enables PCL to expand free Wi-Fi access in every library and nearby area. Installation of this technology will be done by the ATG Group. Work has started. The reach of the Wi-Fi will depend on the buildings in the surrounding area but this will allow staff to use computers outside the library for programming and also give patrons the ability to access more Wi-Fi. One of the Mayor’s initiatives is to broaden the reach of Wi-Fi so that every home in Providence has some internet access to allow for children and families to have more resources, so this expansion of our services fits into the City plans.
- PCL’s planned Phase 2 Library Reopening is June 29.th
- PCL’s United Way grant has been redeployed to Summer Reading program.

Motion:

Pam Vogel motioned to accept June PCL Financial Report and Deb Del Gais seconded the motion.

Yes: 13 No 0 Abstain 0 Total votes: 13

Executive Director’s Report

1. An, “Inside Out PVD”, middle school program presentation to City Council members was conducted in concert with partners from PASA, PVD Young Makers and PCL staff.

2. PCL grant applications still awaiting word on their award decisions:

House of Hope CDC update – Applied to RI Foundation for \$51k to increase PCL’s Peer Supporter position to work one afternoon per week for 12 mos at each library.

PCL submitted a \$250k request to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a National Leadership Grant from their COVID-Cares fund to purchase 90 laptops, 100 hot spots, hire one F/T bilingual digital specialist and one P/T person to work closely with PCL’s Spanish speaking populations. This grant also includes funds to install solar charging stations outside library buildings.

College Unbound partnership update – Two free PCL virtual College Unbound virtual classes started in June, the “New Normal” and, “Contextualizing COVID-19”. This partnership is a unique and cutting edge project blending adult learning with virtual and hands on learning. (Cheryl and two other PCL staff members are participating in one of the courses.

3. A youth staff member at Rochambeau has formed a *Racial Justice*, anti-racism discussion group for PCL in response to the BLM anti-racism protests. The discussion group met last Thursday afternoon and 21 PCL staff attended the event, (30% of PCL staff), which is an excellent turnout.

4. PCL's Youth Services staff will prepare eight thousand reading kits for elementary age participants of PCL's Summer Reading programs. Kits will be distributed to young patrons weekly.
5. The Children's Museum's AmeriCorps team will assemble 1,200 reading kits for PCL's PVD Maker Place program for middle school age participant. The workshops to do activities at home (1,200 kits) get workshop bags each week as well.

Cheryl also thanked PCL staff for their hard work and accomplishments preparing for summer program initiatives. Board members echoed thanks to PCL staff for their accomplishments as well.

Fund Development Committee Report

Zachary updated PCL's donor appeal letter went out. Mailing list included library patrons who have used a PCL library this past year. PCL's Spring Appeal letter is in English & Spanish.

PCL's Spring Appeal letter and a follow up email sent to 7,500 people. To date, 146 donations have come in of which 79 are new donors and 67 are returning donors. The Committee's budget goal was \$5k and their stretch goal is \$25k. Thus far, PCL has received \$8,649k.

Governance Committee Report

Joan discussed proposals on board composition, board size and the general findings of PCL's Board survey prepared by the Governance Committee. in accordance with the PCL By-Laws, no votes were taken at the meeting but votes on the proposed amendments will be taken at the July board meeting.

Facilities Committee Report

Councilwoman Ryan also provided a grant for a new roof and new carpet at to Mr. Pleasant Library. Please thank Councilwoman Ryan for her support whenever possible. In her tenure as Councilwoman, Councilwoman Ryan has provided nearly \$200k in support to Mt. Pleasant.

Public Comment

Karen McInanch, PCL's Union representative, spoke about staff concerns regarding returning to work without adequate COVID-19 protections. Safety practices are still being worked out to ensure everyone is protected. Discussions on PCL's COVID-19 on the staff safety practices remain ongoing.

Motion to Adjourn

Deb Del Gais motioned to adjourn the meeting; Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge seconded the motion.

Vote: 13 yes 0 no 0 abstained

Total votes: 13

PCL's June Board meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm by Patricia Raub, Board President.

Approved on July 20, 2020