

Providence Community Library
Board of Directors Minutes
July 15, 2019
South Providence Library

Welcome and Call to Order

President Patricia Raub called the meeting to order at 6pm with ten members present.

Present: Tony Aguilar, Joan Dagle, Margaret Gardner, Rochelle Lee, Joseph Morra, Patricia Raub, Deborah Schimberg, Ellen Schwartz, Cyndie Wilmot, Ken Wise. Pam Vogel, Kendra Brewster, Deborah Del Gais and Jordan Day arrived after the role call, raising the quorum.

Absent: Avital Chatto, Althea Graves

Minutes

The June minutes were reviewed. Joan Dagle noted that June minutes should properly state that pending state legislation would reduce the reporting requirements of the RI Open Meeting Act “to Board and Executive Committee meetings”.

Ellen Schwartz moved to approve the minutes, Margaret Gardner seconded. The motion passed 8-0-2 (Cyndie Wilmot and Joan Dagle abstained).

President’s Report

Patricia Raub announced that Paige Raposa would be nominated as a new at large Board member in September. Patricia also mentioned that Olneyville and South Providence libraries have available free books donated by book stores in the area.

Pam Vogel arrived, resulting in a quorum of eleven from this point on.

Director’s Report

Kendra Brewster and Deborah Del Gais arrived, resulting in a quorum of thirteen from this point on.

Cheryl Space announced that RILA had successfully lobbied the legislature for an additional \$200,000 for libraries in the state, resulting in an additional \$20,000 for PCL.

Cheryl also noted that with Joseph Morra's efforts, PCL has secured a \$15,000 grant from the United Way, enabling Olneyville Library to pilot a new preschool hub. This allowed the hiring of a 12 hour per week pre-school teacher and additional enrichment providers. Olneyville will be open to the public two additional mornings per week and will remain open during lunch.

The mobile library has been running for two weeks. The Every Place Maker Space has been brought to community centers and has been very popular – with as many as 60 children attending the morning sessions.

Finance Committee

Jordan Day arrived, resulting in a quorum of fourteen from this point on.

Ellen Schwartz presented the June 30, 2019 financial statement. Pam Vogel moved to approve the statement, Rochelle Lee seconded and the motion passed 14-0.

Ellen then discussed a proposed budget for the upcoming year that the Finance Committee had reviewed and recommended for Board approval. After the initial budget proposal, PCL found out that there would be a different amount of grant in aid coming in. Ellen indicated that the proposed budget would not change for now, but the Finance Committee would meet in October to determine what changes should be made. A general budget discussion followed, including questions raised about the efficacy of maintaining security guards at all of the locations (except Rochambeau). Cheryl Space addressed the issue at length.

Pam Vogel moved to accept the budget, Deborah Del Gais seconded. The motion passed 12-1-1 (Deborah Schimberg opposed, Jordan Day abstained).

Governance Committee

Tony Aguilar left the meeting, resulting in a quorum of thirteen from this point on.

Joan Dagle noted that there were no nominations for the Board Secretary position for the upcoming year, and she urged Board members to think seriously about offering to serve in that capacity. Anyone with interest should let her know by the end of August.

Margaret Gardner mentioned that as part of the Executive Director's review, a survey would be going in the next few days. It was important for Board members to review the survey and respond to those questions where they could reasonably provide insight or feedback.

Patricia asked the Board to divide into groups to review a list of topics for Board discussion next year, and choose the top 3-5 priority items from that list. A breakout and discussion followed.

Marketing and Advocacy

Patricia Raub spoke about an upcoming campaign the Marketing and Advocacy Committee is building to request an additional 1.5 million in next year's City budget to keep the libraries open additional hours. The idea is to get patrons involved in outreach to their city council representatives to emphasize how important it is to have additional hours available.

Public Comment

Deb Furia spoke of the overall importance of the security guard at Wanskuck Library. She also made an appeal for the annual book budget, noting that Wanskuck receives only \$3,600 a year to make book purchases.

Motion to Adjourn

Jordan Day moved to adjourn, Cyndie Wilmot seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 13-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Wise
Secretary