

Providence Community Library
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, December 16, 2019
Rochambeau Library, Community Room, 6:15pm-7:42pm

Welcome and Call to Order: After a lively potluck dinner shared by everyone in the room, Patricia Raub called the meeting to order at 6:15pm with 14 board members present to form a quorum.

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Anita Bench, Kendra Brewster, Avital Chatto, Joan Dagle, Deborah Del Gais, André Herrera, Rochelle Lee, Paige Raposa, Patricia Raub, Ellen Schwartz, Pam Vogel, Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge, and Cyndie Wilmot

Members Absent: Jordan Day, Gregory Wakszulski, and Zachary Weinberger

Late Arrivals: Joseph Morra arrived at 6:41pm bringing the Board member count to 15

Early Departures: None

Minutes: Cheryl Space, Library Director, noted the correct spelling within the November minutes for a new hire is “Stefanie Blankenship” and not Stephanie. Pam Vogel made a motion to approve the minutes from November 18, 2019 with the correction. Avital Chatto seconded the motion.

Approved: Tony Aguilar, Anita Bench, Kendra Brewster, Avital Chatto, Joan Dagle, Deborah Del Gais, André Herrera, Joseph Morra, Patricia Raub, Pam Vogel, Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge, and Cyndie Wilmot

Opposed: None

Abstained: Rochelle Lee, Paige Raposa, and Ellen Schwartz

The motion was approved, 12-0-3

Mission Moment: Patricia Raub noted the Christmas party at Wanskuck Library and how well each patron enjoyed their activity: “Francesca was busily teaching how to use the sewing machines, Ms. Inez was helping the knitting group, children were using various tech gadgets, others were doing crafts with their friends and neighbors, and adults were using the computers. This happy hum went on until 4:45pm when Councilor David Salvatore, dressed in a Santa suite showed up. At that time, the whole crowd went wild.” A true community library serving its community!

President’s Report: Patricia Raub noted Tony Aguilar is stepping down as “Acting Secretary” and thanked him for stepping in to help the Board during the transition. Rochelle Lee will step in as the new Secretary.

- An ad-hoc committee is forming in order to create a South Providence Library Friend’s Group. Currently, Anita Bench and André Herrera (Board members), and Amy Rosa, Washington Park Library Manager, will spearhead the effort.

Director's Report:

- Cheryl Space presented a \$15K dollar check from Providence College that will cover the Summer Learning program "Everyplace Makerspace."
- She also received a \$5K check for a day's worth of TV taping at KML from a production company.
- Cheryl was excited that Jordan Day had helped to facilitate "Shower to Empower," a program run by House of Hope and supported by the City of Providence. It is a truck with showers, a medical clinic, and a barber station to help the area homeless and those with mental crisis. It is a peer mentorship effort to help hard-to-reach patrons.
- Some PCL employees received homelessness training at Cranston Public Library from Ryan Dowd.
- On Friday, December 13, PCL staff received training from the Non-Violence Institute of RI.
- Filmmakers of a local production of "Nosferatu" donated \$5K to the library.

Finance Committee Report: Ellen Schwartz presented the Income Statement ending November 30, 2019. She noted that there was a \$60K deficit. She also noted that the audit was "a bit behind" but that it would be completed by the end of January (second fiscal quarter).

- Michael Bordonaro mentioned that several of the checks he has received from the Annual Appeal do not show on this income statement.
- In addition, Cheryl Space noted she had not included the amounts she presented at the beginning of the meeting and that those totals would help towards the bottom line at the end of the second quarter.

Pam Vogel made a motion to approve the Income Statement. Avital Chatto, seconded.

Approved: Tony Aguilar, Anita Bench, Kendra Brewster, Avital Chatto, Joan Dagle, Deborah Del Gais, André Herrera, Rochelle Lee, Paige Raposa, Patricia Raub, Ellen Schwartz, Pam Vogel, Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge, and Cyndie Wilmot

Opposed: None

Abstained: Joseph Morra

The motion was approved, 14-0-1

Development Committee Report: Michael Bordonaro discussed the RI Foundation cohort on Development Strategies. He and the team learned that PCL should be "donor-centric" and that PCL needs to build a culture of philanthropy with its Board, staff, and Friend's Groups.

- Michael mentioned the Giving Tuesday effort had garnered \$4,695 “so far” and he was expecting more to come. This amount will be more than double than last year.
- Michael mentioned the “Drag Queen Story Time” at The Graduate Hotel had not attracted as many participants as had been expected but everyone there had “an outstanding time.”
- Cheryl Space and Joseph Morra attended a “Wrapping for a Cause.” event at Boscov’s. Michael Bordonaro believes we are cementing a relationship with the department store that will serve us well once PCL looks for sponsors to major events.
- The Graduate Hotel cannot accommodate us for “Over the Edge.” The building is in need of “structural repair” and its management did not want to commit if timing adversely affects the work. We are still trying to be part of PVD Fest and Michael has asked Pam Vogel, the Governor’s liaison, to help us find another downtown building.
- Michael will reach out to Cornish Associates and Paolino Properties.
- Michael has reached out to Matthew Lawrence, former PCL VP Board member, to ascertain if a Spelling Bee event is feasible in 2020.

Marketing & Advocacy Committee Report: Tony Aguilar informed the Board about the upcoming 2020 Advocacy campaign. He asked the board to support the effort by making “at least one call” (if not more) so the Board has great representation with the City Council and the Mayor’s office.

- Cheryl will set dates for nine phone-a-thons (one at each library), a text-a-thon, an email-a-thon, and a social media post-a-thon.
- Tony Aguilar mentioned that each library has received a packet with lapel buttons, posters, and scripts and that a similar packet will be distributed at the January Board meeting for all members.
- Pam Vogel noted that we (Board, Friends Group members, and staff) should invite City Councilors to Library events. This will indicate to them how engaged we are with their legislation proposals but also remind them about our advocacy push. Cheryl noted that City Councilors often host their meetings at the various libraries.

Facilities Committee Report: Sue Gibbs confirmed that Kevin Toomey, RI Director at Jensen Hughes, has sent bids for the fire alarm/electrical work at KML. The bids went to 12 contractors. Each contractor will do a walkthrough, so they have a better understanding on the building’s needs. Bids are due on Jan 3. The \$390K budget is covered by a Champlin grant.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Deborah Del Gais made a motion to adjourn, Cyndie Wilmot, seconded.

By unanimous vote, the motion was approved, 15-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Aguilar

Vice President

(Acting Secretary for November and December 2019)