

Meeting Minutes
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

Regular Business

Roll call on Zoom

Present: John Trause, Sheila Sterling, Eileen Gabrielle, Eric Mangol, Joe Colella, Jessica Holmes, Miriam Yu, Jim Lesserson, Anne Sullivan, Susan Jung

Approval of minutes: (AS / JH)

Meeting – November 10, 2021

Approval of financial reports – November 2021 – and Transaction Reports (Bill Lists) – November 2021

- Some libraries are doing away with fines, but smaller libraries that rely on fines for revenue may not be able to do the same. One option is to speak to the municipality for increased funding to cover the need for revenue from fines.
- Motion to accept Financial Reports: (EG/EM)

Acceptance of November 2021 Director's Report, Information Services Report, and Youth Services Librarian Report

- Behavioral problems in the YA Room, 6th Graders. Mrs. Blakeslee has addressed the issues directly with kids involved.
- In 2022 Friends will not be paying for office supplies, and the Oradell Public Library Foundation will not be paying for professional development of staff
- Motion to accept Information Services Report and Youth Services Librarian Report: (AS/MY)
- Motion to accept Director's Report: (EG/AS)

Correspondence

- Survey by BBCLS Branding committee sent to trustees of BCCLS libraries today via email
- David Hanson (Exec Dir of BCCLS) can come in when we are back in person to discuss the strategic plan with us and his vision of where BCCLS is going

Old Business

Programming and Certificate of Insurance

- Certificate of Insurance (COI): Lot of push back from the borough. Hold Harmless for residents to give speeches and presentations might be but the borough is scared to take risk. Triggered audit to make sure it is fair across the board (ie: Farmer's Market, guitarist, etc.). Of more concern for safety are the several bricks in front of the library building that are loose and need to be addressed. This is riskier than not having an insurance certificate for performers.
- Is there a rider that can be added to the borough policy to cover library? Providing services is what the library does – cost of doing business. Less risky than the borough's Independence Day beer gardens, etc. Burden to the library, loss to the community. Has never been any lawsuits against the library in at least the past 11 years (since John's been here). Borough insurance agent Gerard Quinn's solution to this?
- Oradell is one of the only libraries that requires any kind of insurance. Others require hold harmless agreements, but not certificates of insurance. They are surprised when they hear we do. (e.g. River Edge Public Library).
- New Jersey Maker Day: Lin Loh wanted to start lining up vendors, teachers, and volunteers. Wanted to know who needed to be covered with a COI.
- Monroe Quinn, music director at St Joe's, to come in and perform Dec 29th. The library would have to guarantee insurance for him. Can we extend our insurance to cover him?

Strategic Plan and Return of Funds

- Strategic Plan is one part of the Transfer of Funds application and it is done.
- Respondents rated the kinds of programs they would like to see at the Library:
 - Music, concerts: 38.89%
 - Performing arts, theater: 34.03%
 - Computers and technology: 31.94%
 - Cooking: 28.4%
 - Foreign language: 28.47%
 - Health and fitness: 28.47%
 - Social events (beer or wine tasting): 28.47%
 - Travel: 26.39%
 - History: 25.69%
 - Home and garden: 22.22%
 - Personal finance: 19.44%
 - Creative/design (Makerspace): 18.75%
 - Job search and careers: 16.67%

- Residents already feel services are being cut, if we did away with these, residents would be angry.

Staff recommendations

New Business

- Return to in-person Library Board meetings (craft area of Junior Room)

Public Portion

Closed Session

Next Board Meeting Wednesday, January 12, 2022