

MINUTES
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

Regular Business

- A. Roll call on Zoom Roll call on Zoom (7:40 p.m.)
Present: Sheila Sterling, Jim Lessersohn, Anne Sullivan, Eileen Gabrielle, Eric Mangol,
Miriam Yu, John Trause, Claire Beslow
Absent: Susan Jung, Joe Colella
- B. Approval of minutes: (CB,EG)
Meeting – February 10, 2021
- C. Approval of financial reports – February 2021 – and Transaction Reports (Bill Lists) – February 2021(CB/JL)
 - 1. Library has over 200,000 in the Valley National account
 - 2. Library received a reimbursement from BCCLS (from a grant—that was evenly distributed among the member libraries)
 - 3. \$600 for fines and fees and & \$800 from Friends
 - 4. Income and expenses very typical this month, several items are less than what we budgeted for; subscriptions had not been budgeted for, but we will probably add this in now that we are seeing patrons
 - 5. Children’s expenditures are probably a bit higher right now because we are still paying for things ordered in December.
 - 6. Most everything else is about the same as last year
 - 7. Looked at cost of desk assistants and pages: increased wages against decreased wages
- D. Acceptance of February 2021 Information Services Report, and Youth Services Librarian Report (CB, EG)
- E. Acceptance of February 2021 Director’s Report (CB, AS)
 - 1. Talked about the Oradell Avenue Bridge Local Concept Development (LCD) Study
 - 2. The local history room is getting very crowded - George would like to bump out the wall to add space. John pointed out some other possibilities to him. John suggested reconstructing the interior space—maybe rearrange the desks, put some of the duplicated materials, if any, in another space (perhaps Borough Hall), and/or move storage (boxes, etc.) not in use to the Library’s storage area.

Correspondence - none

Old Business

- A. Review of Library Board Bylaws
 - 1. We shall wait until next meeting to go over them with Joe, who has been making recommendations to John in updating them

B. Budget 2021

1. Miriam said that there are no updates yet. The Council had a closed meeting and will have another one very soon. There are some serious budget concerns for the Borough. Hopefully, there will be an open meeting about the budget in April.

New Business

- A. Jim talked about Jeff Bezos' practice at Amazon for denying access to e-books to libraries
 1. He proposed the possibility of suspending our purchase of materials from Amazon
 2. John explained that we do not buy our e-books from Amazon (mostly Baker and Taylor); we've spent about \$1200 at Amazon over the past two months. Most of what we purchase there are things that are difficult, more expensive, or impossible for us to get elsewhere.
 3. John wrote to the Executive Director and President of BCCLS suggesting that BCCLS voice dissatisfaction with Amazon's practices and perhaps get other consortia to support the effort of preventing the restriction of materials
 4. John talked about Simply E—a platform being used by the New York Public Library system, but he did not feel that it actually unified all e-resources platforms for us to employ it
- B. Anne asked about Makers' Day. John thinks that we are not doing very much this year. John will ask around to see what other libraries in the area are doing; he does not think it will translate well virtually. Carol is exploring for some applicable ideas.
- C. OPS Board of Education plans to open OPS five days a week in April; will the Library be open full hours any time soon?
 1. Talked about the pros and cons of virtual
 2. The Library has imposed a 25 person limit on public buildings, so our building could have a maximum of 15 patrons at a time because of the staff being present
 3. As September approaches, we need to work with the Coronavirus Task Force in planning further re-opening and return to pre-pandemic services

Public Portion

Closed Session

Next Board Meeting Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 p.m. (CB, EM)