

Barrett Paradise Friendly Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2023

Meeting held in the Weiler Family Community Room with a virtual option

In Attendance: Lisa Flanagan, President; Julie Wynne, Vice President (attended via Zoom); Deb Boyle, Treasurer; Cindy Cook, Secretary. Trustees: Brette Fulton, Richard Leist, Darryl Speicher, Mike Stein, Julie Niering. Library Director, Mary Ann Lewis.

Lisa Flanagan, President, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes of the July 2023 meeting were reviewed. Deb Boyle made a motion to accept the minutes, Darryl Speicher seconded, and all were in favor.

**Treasurer's Report**-Deb Boyle reviewed the report ending July 31, 2023. She stated the library is maintaining a cash balance of approximately \$206,000. \$116,000 of that is unrestricted, including the \$25,000 from the Hommer Foundation. There is currently \$480,000 in managed assets. The income statement shows equity is over \$2,000,000 which should remain stable as most of it is the building. Deb also noted we have received \$30,000 in direct public support to date and our budgeted amount for the year is \$37,000. She also stated the library tax received is on target. There is nothing new to report on grants. To date we have \$280,000 income with a budgeted amount of \$360,000 total for the year. She stated our expenses are staying on target, payroll expenses are significantly under budget. The fundraising expenses and income are not complete as the final totals from "LOL Comedy Night" are not in yet.

Julie Niering made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report for audit.

Mike Stein made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter an executive session at 5:42p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Darryl Speicher second, all were in favor. Mike Stein made a motion to close the executive session at 5:51 p.m. The regular meeting was reconvened.

**Library Director's Report**-Mary Ann reported the visitor stats are not showing anything out of the ordinary. There is an increase in visitors due to summer. The Pocono Mountains Music Festival event held at the library went very well.

Kay Sengle's family donated four (4) John James paintings to the library. The Resolution recognizing her service to the library was presented to her family.

Mary Ann read a nice thank you note from a grateful visitor.

Circulation stats are typical for summer and are showing an increase over last July. Discussion took place about how visitors may obtain library cards. Discussion also took place about how to get back to our pre- Covid numbers. Mary Ann explained that there are differences in how circulation statistics are collected now but if we were counting the same as pre-Covid we would probably be closer to some of those numbers.

The Quilt raffle will end this Thursday. "LOL" went very well with a good turnout, good food, and a nice selection of auction items. A comment was made that some feedback was received about the comedians and their content being the same as prior years. Mary Ann stated the committee will look into it.

Richard Leist offered to put the committee in touch with his contact to possibly get some new talent for next year. Mary Ann believes the net is close to \$16,000 which is a little less than last year but still on par.

**Grants**-Searchable History project has nothing new to report. The sit/stand desks that were purchased with the Hughes Grant have arrived. The new book drop and room dividers have not arrived yet.

**New Business**-The State Aid Library Subsidy Application has a 12% collection expenditure standard meaning 12% of our total operating expenditures must be spent on the library collection. In 2022 we only spent 10% so we need to request a waiver. Mike Stein made a motion to authorize the Library Director to file a waiver for 2022. Lisa Flanagan seconded and all were in favor. Discussion took place about the 12% rule and how the digital world and other factors are affecting that. Discussion took place about forming a digital resources committee.

**Nominating Committee**-Richard Leist gave an update on the upcoming Slate of Officers and Trustees for 2024:

Mike Stein, President  
Richard Leist, Treasurer  
Judy Jabara, Trustee  
Nancy Lewis, Trustee  
Maureen Siglin, Trustee

**Old Business**-Julie Niering spoke about the ideas for the plaque recognizing Library Directors through the years. She also stated her concerns about the format so it could be continued going forward. Discussion took place about size, location of plaque, and price point.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m. Darryl Speicher made a motion, Mike Stein seconded, and all were in favor.

Next meeting: Monday, September 25, 2023.