



**HERSHEY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
701 COCOA AVENUE
HERSHEY, PA 17033

Library Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2021

Library Mission: to advance Derry Township through innovative programming, collections, and services that support the diversity of our community.

Present: Jordan Yeagley, Bill Ecenbarger, Carin Kaag, Geoffrey Crout, Laura O’Grady

Absent: Leigh-Anne Dornberger, Sue Kreider, Chris Abruzzo, Natalie Nutt

1. Call to order – 7:03 PM
2. Approval of March 16, 2021 minutes (Attachment A)- Bill makes a motion to approve the minutes, Jordan seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Reports of Representatives
 - a. Friends of the Library Carin Kaag – Carin reports that the Friends have decided to hold the book sale this summer. The Friends are considering how to hold programming in the fall. Laura adds that the Friends pop-up book sale will conclude June 30th. The sale will run July 30- August 3.
 - b. Endowment Trust Jordan Yeagley- Jordan reports that the most recent meeting was last month, and they are currently reviewing their policies on how they will disburse funds in the future.
4. New Business
 - a. ALA Library Value Calculator – (Attachment B) – Laura explains that this tool was put out by ALA to help libraries communicate their value to their community. These numbers are based on library use between January and May 2021. This will be used on social media. Bill suggests that this tool could be updated every month and shared on social media. Laura could possibly incorporate this into an upcoming article in the Hummelstown Sun. Geoffrey suggests that this could be included in the township eNews.
 - b. Grant from Office of Commonwealth Libraries – Laura reports that the Library received a \$600 grant to bring equity, diversity, and inclusion training. They brought in a speaker from the LGBT center of Central Pennsylvania on Wednesday May 12, and it was a very useful experience.
 - c. Staff book discussion- Laura reports that since the library mission now includes “reflect the diversity of their community,” the staff have started reading a book called This Book Is Antiracist by Tiffany Jewell and discussing it at monthly staff meetings. The intention is to introduce the idea of anti-racism and bias-awareness to how they conduct library work.



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- d. COVID protocol changes- Laura reports that with the most recent update from the CDC, the library is now only requiring masks for unvaccinated people. The library is not verifying vaccine status but instead trusting patrons to mask appropriately. The library is finding that most staff and patrons continue to wear a mask. This new approach has made enforcing the mask policy much easier. The signage has all been updated to reflect the new policy. The library is no longer quarantining book returns. Any in-person programs scheduled for this summer will take place outside, but in the fall, we will plan for in-person programming.
 - i. Jordan reports that he understands that the library needed to cut back due to COVID budget issues last year, but he would like to see some numbers or ideas to how we are going to reintegrate services they have lost. He doesn't want COVID-level services to become the new normal ceiling for services. For an example him and his daughter used to come in on Sunday's and now they are not able to. He knows that this is part of a larger township budget discussion, but he asks that Laura put together some budget numbers to get an idea of what it would look like to reinstate some lost services. Laura says this will not be a problem and discussing this in the next meeting in July is good timing before budget negotiations begin in the fall.
 - e. Summer Block Party- Laura adds that the library would like to hold a Summer Block Party style celebration on the Saturday of the book sale. The intention is to celebrate that the library is getting back to normal business. It would be held in the library parking lot and would include food trucks, music, lawn games, sodas, water and potentially a beer vendor. Having an alcohol vendor would require approval from the Township Board of Supervisors but Laura wanted to bring it up with the Library Board in case there were any concerns. No concerns are raised.
5. Old Business – No old business.
 6. Financial Report – (Attachment C)- Laura presents the Financial Report and notes that we are in a healthy position for this point in the year.
 7. Communications (Attachment D) – Laura presents some of the notes she got over the last few months regarding services received at the library.
 8. Staff Reports
 - a. Director & Staff Reports (Attachment E) – Laura presents the Director and Staff report. She notes that much of the rolling year-to-date statistics will look strange since it will be comparing it to the time that the library was shut down in 2020.
 9. Adjournment – Bill makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Geoffrey seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously and meeting is adjourned at 7:27 PM.



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Attachments

- A. March 16, 2021 Minutes
- B. ALA Value Calculator
- C. Financial Report
- D. Communications
- E. Director & Staff Report

The next meeting of the Hershey Public Library Board of Directors is 7 PM on July 20, 2021