

Library Board Meeting

Monday, August 6, 2018

Present Board Members: Nishant Grover, Betty Overdorf, Annyce Levy, Claudia Jones, Wilson Rankin

Present Library Staff: Elizabeth Sensabaugh, Catherine Fae

Absent Board Members: Sonya Nicely, Tommie Bloomer

I. Welcome new Board members!

A. Introductions from all Board members

Wilson Rankin: Currently beginning his second 4-year term. He has a lifelong love of libraries.

Betty Overdorf: An ad hoc member, Betty is the President of the Lamplighters.

Annyce Levy: Annyce has been a resident of Radford for 45 years and has four children. She feels strongly about the importance of reading and the opportunities that Radford Public Library provides.

Nishant Grover: Serving his first Board term, Nishant is 24 years old and graduated from Radford High School. He came to RPL after school and found it a great place to read and relax.

Claudia Jones: Claudia is the parent of a 2 ½ year old and spends a great deal of time at RPL.

B. Overview Board Member Responsibilities

Wilson explained that the purpose of the Board was to be another set of eyes and ears for the Library and provide support to the Library. The Board meets quarterly and is advisory rather than governing.

II. Introduce RPL Youth Librarian Catherine Fae

A. Review SRC and youth programming (handout included)

Catherine retired from her legal career to pursue a library career. She deeply values the freedom, joy of learning and memory making that happens in libraries.

Her primary focus as the Youth Librarian of RPL is creating a vibrant teen community in response to the 40-80 teens in the library daily after school. She has started new programs including mindfulness, life skills, music lessons and more.

Catherine recently accomplished the Summer Reading Club with all staff in June and July of 2018. Her intention in designing the SRC was to cultivate a love of reading and promote making 'literary friends.' She shifted the SRC funding from plastic prizes to activity packs and additionally shifted goal-oriented reading to offering book prizes. There was a 90% increase in participation from last year to this year. Popular programs included a slime bar program (attendance of 300), a magician/performer and free lunches on each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Since the SRC, Tuesday nights have become family nights and Catherine has increased outreach and partnerships.

Board members asked questions and commented on their observations. Wilson applauded the focus of reading for SRC. Claudia also commented that reading for fun should remain a focus going forward. Annyce mentioned that she'd noticed that the teens didn't congregate at the entrance and parking lot and felt that the teens must be more engaged to stay inside the teen area.

III. Old Business

A. Meeting Minutes from May 2018 were accepted/approved.

B. Sunday hours

Sundays in July yielded visits from 1,067 patrons with an average of 213 patrons visiting each Sunday. Sunday programs, primarily matinee movies, were attended by 30. Moving forward with being open in Sundays in August is the plan and these extended business hours will be considered for 2019.

C. Monthly Updates

Monthly updates are sent at the close of each month to recap events, programs, training, staffing, facility, collection and other miscellaneous updates. The monthly updates began in April 2018 and have continued throughout May, June, and July. Board members have commented favorably about receiving updates and feeling more aware of RPL events between quarterly Board meetings.

IV. New Business

A. Videophone installation

Sorenson Communications installed a videophone in the Ann H. Fisher New River Room. The installation was the result of communications between a summer intern, Jerome Thomas, who is an ASL interpreter. The Videophone makes communication between the deaf and hearing possible so that deaf can contact hearing individuals via

computer/monitor and have interpreter involvement. This equipment was installed at no cost to the library.

B. Children’s Area at Radford City Police Department (RCPD)
Partnering with Lt. Wilburn, RPL worked with the RCPD to create a child-friendly space in the waiting room of the police department. RPL provided a table, chairs, and books. The idea was to provide a comforting and interesting space for children while they wait for a parent/guardian in the waiting room.

V. Staffing/Hiring

A. Currently there is a Library Technician vacancy for Aaron Jarrell’s former position. The job ad deadline for applications was 8/1/18. Twenty applications have been received and interviewing begins this week. The interviewing panel will likely consist of the Director, Youth Librarian, and a Radford City HR representative.
Board members discussed the possibility of pay increases and financial rewards for staff who have received additional training or education.

VI. Budget

A. State Aid was approved for RPL despite some earlier concerns and questions from LVA. A waiver was authorized and all State money was allotted to RPL.

VII. Programming/Statistics

May 2018 -Bibliostat Data	
<i>Totals here include outreach that is not part of SRP and one-on-ones as programs, per bibliostat's definition. Passive programs are excluded.</i>	
Adult Programs	17
Adult Participants	403
Teen Programs	37
Teen Participants	444
Children's Programs - Pre-K (0-5)	13
Children's Participants - Pre-K (0-5)	301
Children's Programs - Pre-K (6-11)	9
Children's Participants - Pre-K (6-11)	826

June 2018 Bibliostat Data	
<i>Totals here include outreach that is not part of SRP and one-on-ones as programs, per bibliostat's definition. Passive programs are excluded.</i>	
Adult Programs	13
Adult Participants	115
Teen Programs	10
Teen Participants	128
Children's Programs - Pre-K (0-5)	31
Children's Participants - Pre-K (0-5)	539
Children's Programs - Pre-K (6-11)	15
Children's Participants - Pre-K (6-11)	764

Bibliostat Data	
<i>Totals here include outreach that is not part of SRP and one-on-ones as programs, per bibliostat's definition. Passive programs are excluded.</i>	
Adult Programs	20
Adult Participants	142
Teen Programs	13
Teen Participants	58
Children's Programs - Pre-K (0-5)	9
Children's Participants - Pre-K (0-5)	117
Children's Programs - Pre-K (6-11)	35
Children's Participants - Pre-K (6-11)	475

VIII. Other/Misc.

- A. Lamplighters next quarterly book sale is 11/2 -11/4/18.
- B. The next tentatively scheduled Board meeting is 11/5/18 at 5 PM.
- C. Wilson suggested that RPL create a firm policy on bequeathing or donating money to the Library.