

RPL
Library Board Meeting
Monday, 8/22/22 at 5 PM

Present: Bella, Wilson, John, Annyce

Via Zoom: Claudia

Absent: Jenni, Betty

I. Old Business

Meeting notes from May 2022 were approved. John made the motion and Bella seconded.

Board members re-visited reviewing the MyLibro app, purchased during the pandemic, as an effective searching app to browse the collection. MyLibro is still in development and meets the needs for placing holds and scheduling times for pick-ups. The search results are truncated so it does not provide the fullness of search results that the OPAC provides.

Fine-free status at RPL was discussed. RPL has been waiving fines in July and August. The library is moving toward being fine free in September. Board members suggested ways of promoting the fine free status. Ideas included:

- school newsletter Wednesday Blast
- highlighting with the Chamber of Commerce
- using social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram
- giving flyers to businesses to hang
- using the RPL website
- promoting fine free at the Little Free Library (the Bisset Park little library is sponsored by the Rotary Club)
- housing projects
- Macaroni Kids

II. New Business

Annyce asked about the 'active killer' training that Youth Services Librarian (YSL) Morgan attended. She suggested that new hire orientation include this training as well as information on what to do if someone is seen with a holstered gun. The board discussed 'open carry' which is legal in Virginia without a permit for anyone who is at least 18 years old.

III. Staffing

Several staff have returned to school which has limited staff coverage. RPL will begin interviews this week for more frontline staffing.

Courtney Amos was hired to fill vacancy left by Eli Facemire. She has done an excellent job in returning to RPL and is often the lead part time staff in conducting outreach events.

IV. Programming

RPL will have a booth at the *Potter in the Park* event on Saturday, 9/3/22. This event is a fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley which focuses on adult literacy. RPL will offer Potter trivia, butter beer and more.

The Summer Reading Program was a success with high participation.

- 48 Kids programs were offered; 1,305 attended
- 13 Teen programs were offered; 59 attended
- 13 Adult programs were offered; 161 attended
- 11 outreach events were provided to 574 during June and July.
- 758 total participants of 414 kids; 72 teens; and 272 adults.
- 16,448 days of reading were collectively logged!

The Tree Lighting Ceremony is in progress for planning for 2023.

Radford Reads with Radford University has selected author Sue Fliess for the April 2023 visit.

V. Budget

The library received additional state aid for FY23. The General Assembly approved a \$2.5 million increase which resulted in an increase of \$23,479 to RPL.

RPL is nearing the end of allowable expenditure for the ARPA grant through LVA. That grant ends on 9/30/22. To date the grant has afforded payment on streaming platforms, the MyLibro app, and the career changed service dog, Story, as a staff facility dog.

RPL submitted a grant for 'Rural Health Partner Mobilization with Mini-Grant Application with VA State Office of Rural Health. The grant was submitted on 8/7/22 and sought \$20,450.00 for a refrigerator for the public, funding for fresh foods, library training and a facility dog support. Related goals including improving food security, providing stress relief and mental health support, and training for staff as all related to Covid recovery.

Director Sensabaugh secured an interview to discuss improving the Children's Garden area to become ADA compliant. The grant being explored is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The earliest available consideration for this grant would be fiscal year 2024 as those funds have already been earmarked for 2023.

VI. Miscellaneous

A new book format, called Wonderbooks, has been added to RPL on the recommendation of YSL Morgan. These are physical books that have read-along recorded options. Wonderbooks were purchased in picture book, easy reader and chapter books reading levels.

Facility updates have been made. The entrance on Main Street has been painted. The motor of the handicap door at the entrance has been replaced.

A fundraising newsletter for Lamplighters is being developed and will be mailed out in early September.

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2022 at 5:00 pm following the Lamplighters' Book Sale.