

RPL Board Meeting Agenda 5/16/2022
Radford Public Library
Community Room

Present in-person: Wilson Rankin, Betty Overdorf, Jenni Wilder, Annyce Levy, Bella Calfee, John Yamine

Present via Zoom: Claudia Jones

Note taker: Elizabeth Sensabaugh

I. New Business

- A. Jenni made a motion to approve the February 2022 meeting minutes. Annyce seconded the motion and the meeting minutes were approved.
- B. Wilson suggested we revisit the miscellaneous items discussed in the February Board meeting.
 1. My Libro was briefly discussed. Jenni, who had previously had issues with the app, said that it had been working for her. Board member Claudia said that she had primarily been working with the website rather than MyLibro due to dissatisfaction with the limited search results that MyLibro offered.
 2. Per Annyce's input that replacement bike racks are needed, bike racks have been ordered and received. The Police Department reviewed best placement areas for the bike racks and Public Works has been contacted to place the racks in the ground.
 3. Wilson inquired about the status of the meeting room. It has been being booked on a case by case basis.
- C. The Library Board discussed the idea of going fine free at RPL.

Wilson expressed concern that fining for overdues may prevent people from using library resources. Another perspective is that not gathering fine money may have implications to revenue.

A newspaper article, "Banish late fees and library police" from the Roanoke Times on 5/9/22 was referenced.

Annyce expressed an interest in hearing more statistics for impact to revenues. John suggested that instead of imposing fees, perhaps a voluntary fee could be in place. Fundraising in the future to replace lost fines may be something to consider.

Claudia inquired about whether books are coming back beyond the due date currently and when items are generally being returned (by the due date or how far thereafter)?

Wilson suggested that staff offer vacation checkouts more frequently. Some Board members like the idea of going fine free for children and teens but not changing the fine status for adults.

A suggestion was made to roll out fine free status at the holidays or at the start of a significant time of the year such as the beginning of the fiscal year or calendar year. There was an idea to have a trial period of going fine free.

Betty suggested that a presentation be put together to offer to the Board re: fine free procedures and policies.

Annyce suggested that the benefit of going fine free be emphasized in recognizing that this would positively impact children and young adults.

Some statistics were provided to the Board regarding fine free considerations. That statistics were provided both in person and via email.

1. On average, \$7,000 is brought in yearly in fines. Fine money goes to the City's general fund.
2. There are 272 borrowers with activity between May 2021 – May 2022 who have at least \$10 in fines
3. In May there were 509 Overdue Children's items.
4. In May there were 72 overdue teen items.
5. Minors comprise 8.9% of library borrowers (2,012 of 22,555)

II. Staffing

- A. Library Services Specialist Eli has tendered his resignation. Eli has worked with RPL since January 2020. He will be missed as he approaches graduation with Liberty and working another job.

III. Programming

- A. The Summer Reading Program will begin June 4, 2022. The theme this year is "Oceans of Possibility" and several programs have been planned for June and July.

IV. Budget

- A. ARPA funds were awarded to RPL in the amount of 21,129. This money will be spent primarily on furniture and digital collections. A small amount of funding was allotted for a facility dog from Saint Francis Service Dogs. Unfortunately, Story did not progress to the next advanced level and was dismissed.
- B. RPL is on track to spend the allotted City budget over the next two months to close out fiscal year 2022.

V. Miscellaneous

- A. The Lamplighter Book Sale, which happened the weekend prior, yielded \$770. Thanks to Lamplighters for working so hard to raise money that funds library programs and events.
- B. Betty suggested that a presentation on fine free be made during the next quarterly meeting in August. Other suggestions including having more conversation via email to include question and answers, ideas, etc about the idea of going fine free.

VI. Adjournment

Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Annyce seconded the motion.