

Monroeville Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

November 27th, 2023

Called to order at 7:04pm

Meeting held in person with virtual option

Members present: Nicole Henline, Debbie Iszauk, Mary Frances Thorn, Emily Hoffman, Kelly Meredith, Michael Crane, Ruth Payne, Dave English, Alan Rader, Tara Rotuna (Friends of MPL) and Eric Poach (Council Liaison).

I. Friends of the Monroeville Public Library update:

A. Blanket the Library will be held on December 5th. This year features a winter shopping market as well as wine tasting sessions that you can sign up for, the cost for the tasting session is \$25/person.

B. The Sarris Candy Fundraiser is under way through December 15th.

C. 5 Below Fundraiser is upcoming.

II. Mike Wargo from LPL financial presented the board with the annual financial report, review of the investment policy statement, our current investments and updated on the current state of bonds.

III. Consent Agenda from October and Financial Reports from October, approved with unanimous vote.

IV. Director's Report

A. Grant Updates:

1. MPL will receive the McElhattan Grant for 20K, this will help fund the teen after-school program. This is a decrease from last years grant award due to the current economy.
2. The Grable Grant is a possibility for the Shared Outreach Program that would be between the MPL, Plum and Pennhills Library. Nicole and the other library director's working on a letter of inquiry.

B. National and State News- there is a call for help to all library staff, board and patrons to call your local/state representatives asking for the PA library budget to be released.

C. Staffing- The Children's Room position has been filled, the new employee will begin within the next week.

V. ACLA Report presented by Dave English:

A.ACLA is working on their own financial strategic planning m with funding help by the McCune Foundation.

B. RAD's board meets on the 30th and they will be voting on the 2024 budget; a 4% budget increase is expected for next year.

C. Dave reiterated reaching out to our local representatives, Brandon Markosek and Senator Brewster to release the Library funding.

VI. New Business – Vote on the CD renewal or investment tabled until December's meeting.

VII. Old Business

A. 2024 budget draft was presented to Council in October, thank you everyone who showed up to the Budget Hearing in support of the MPL.

B. School District library cards for all students- the opt in has begun and the library cards will begin being distributed to students in batches.

C. Pitcairn Grant/RAD Transformative Grant, efforts are ongoing with a new revitalization group based in Pitcairn called Genesis.

D. Discovery Gardens is moving ahead. Arkos Design Group has presented their final draft of plans and drawings of the project.

E. Love Your Library month was a big success for 2023. 1.3 million dollars were raised across Allegheny County, with the MPL received approx. 30K.

F. There is an upcoming board seat opening in Ward3 as Mary Frances will be term limited.

G. Strategic Planning – No updates

H. Standards for Excellence-Policy Updates and Best Practices

1. Room Use Policy and fee update coming soon.
2. Library Programming versus Public Use Programming Policy and Explanation coming soon.
3. The Monroeville Internet Policy/CIPA was up for re-approval; the board voted to pass the policy unanimously.

VIII. Committees Reports

A. Volunteer- No new updates.

B. Fund Development

1. Sponsorship packages are finalized.
2. The 2024 events calendar is out.
3. The end of year letter went out as the Giving Tuesday circulation.

C. Facilities:

1. HVAC units are pending arrival. Tudi is the company who will be doing the installation, they have been to the library to start the measurements process.
2. The stair wells are being updated with new tread, the project is underway.

XI. General Information and Reminders- Save the date: the next Board meeting is December 18th at 7pm.

Action Items: Volunteers will be needed for the upcoming 2024 events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.