

February 20, 2024

Mt. Lebanon Library Board meeting minutes

In attendance: Robyn Vittek, Holiday Adair, Kristen Baginski, Anthony Moretti, Monica Ruane Rogers, Bob Taylor, Susan Tracey, Anne Swager Wilson (Not in attendance: Marcia Taylor)

1. Consent Agenda: Monica made motion; Anthony offered a second. Vote was unanimous to approve.
2. Comments from Observers: None
3. Friends of the Library: Susan Tracey was happy to report that “we’re in good shape,” referring to FOTL

FOTL continues to plan the annual flower show, which is on May 11 this year. There is optimism that there will be more items available this year in comparison to recent years. Volunteers are needed to help on that day.

4. Liaison report: Anne Swager Wilson delivered two major points

The commission has completed resume reviews for the various MtL boards; she was pleased with the “terrific” amount of applicants

The governor was in Mt. Lebanon last week; great local media coverage and the governor complimented the MtL commission and the community

5. President’s report: Bob Taylor reminded the other Board members that the annual and required review of Library director Robyn Vittek was approaching; he asked the Board members to keep close tabs on the Library’s goals as they completed their reviews

Because of the new Board member joining in April, Board members will be given the option to switch the library board committees they are on. If no one switches, the new member likely will join the governance committee.

Finally, Bob noted that at the March meeting, the Board will discuss how it wants to identify its new vice president, and that person would take on those responsibilities in April

6. Director's report: Robyn Vittek noted that she and her team are working on two required big reports – the annual report that needs to be sent to the state and all staff reviews

The library staff benefited from the library being closed on Feb. 19; it completed several items during a training day, including overview of online resources and active shooter drill.

New data about 2023 visits to the library showed that a return to pre-pandemic normal numbers are approaching – a few numbers here: average of 87 visitors per hour; almost 200 hosted events; roughly 595,000 items circulated.

Robyn reported that a patron has asked that reconsideration be given for a children's book published in 1971; she has sent the patron a letter defending the book

Finally, on March 23, the library will host the Friends and Trustees Institute; video links for Board members will be provided

7. Committee reports:

Governance: Bob reported that four current library policies are scheduled to be reviewed in 2024: rollover policy, library program policy, fiscal authority and responsibility policy and lending policy. Bob asked that all Board members review the current policies so that they are prepared to offer input and vote on these in the next three months

A new policy will be enacted – challenge to programs and displays so that clarity for all organizations is provided

Fundraising: Anthony Moretti reported that four of the seven gardens for the June 23 Garden Tour have been identified; board was again encouraged to identify friends or neighbors who might have an interest in allowing their garden to be recognized in June; social media outreach also would be welcomed

8. Old business: Hip, hip hooray – the elevator is back in operation! Anne reminded the Board that supply chain issues are real; she mentioned that the Rec Center ice rink is still awaiting the delivery of new chillers

9. New business: Robyn addressed the upcoming Library Space Planning and Renovation project; multiple layers here that began with a local architectural firm (Drew Collective) providing the first step: submission of floor plans.

Anne complimented Drew Collective, saying she was aware of the quality work it has done on many projects. In addition, a local resident, an architect herself, offered a positive assessment of what DC submitted.

No board action is required on the first step of the project, which will especially address the children's library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.