

Mission: Adamstown Area Library serves as a vibrant community hub utilizing extensive resources to provide innovative programming and services that engage and educate residents of all ages and cultures.

Adamstown Area Library Trustees Meeting Minutes October 11, 2023

In Attendance:

Board: Maia Hession, Jessica McManimen, Cindy Mellinger, Brad Rauch, Hope Schmids, Curt Unruh, Brandon Webb, Anne Williams

Staff: Carolyn Reiste

Friends: Ronnie Heston

Guest: Deb Drury, Elizabethtown Public Library

The meeting was held at the library and was called to order at 6:32 PM by Anne Williams.

Secretary's Report was presented by Hope Schmids. **Motion to accept: Cindy Mellinger, Jess McManimen. Approved.**

Deb Drury from Elizabethtown Public Library came to explain possible referendum to fund libraries.

Currently, there are inequities among Lancaster County municipalities. Example of inequity in funding: MT Library is a dept of Manheim Twp, so it receives \$1M as such!

Libraries compete for limited state funding and must deal with rising delivery costs because no library has everything it needs in its own collection. For library funding to become more sustainable, we must either change our library system structure and its funding or increase revenue. Libraries spend enormous time and effort fundraising to cover operational costs.

A mil is \$1 per thousand dollar **assessed value**. Deb recommends 0.33 Mil, which would be about \$61.40 for average property unit. Her calculations show this level of local tax, combined with Commonwealth funding, would fully fund our libraries.

Dauphin County is a consolidated system, we are a federated system with lots of redundancies rather than shared centralized functions.

IF Lancaster County libraries and their boards support exploring the referendum process, a PAC would form. Deb and Karla Trout from OCL would organize to get this on ballot.

Quick approach - petition commissioners to add to ballot – easy but hard to win

*Better approach -petition for sigs to get on ballot – Aim for Spring 2025. Will need a certain % of number of voters in previous election. Ballot is presented. if voters approve, tax is collected with taxes in next year.

20 years ago, got on ballot and performed well but failed to pass. Now, much higher level of trust with the system.

Next step: decide as a board if we support and are willing to work with this effort. Do we need board consensus on this issue? Deb stressed this process requires a LOT OF WORK. **Her one stipulation: If we decide NOT to actively pursue, and library system decides to pursue, we will NOT actively oppose, criticize, or undermine their efforts.**

Friends Report was presented by Ronnie Heston. About 55 of 75 tickets for “Blue Jeans & High Heels” Dinner and Auction at The Village Haus on Sunday November 18 sold so far. Contact Margaret for tickets. Author Tess Gerritson is next speaker for Council of Friends. Kristin Hannah tickets go on sale November 1.

Treasurer’s Report was presented by Brad Rauch. Nothing remarkable in this month’s report. We are at about 6.6 FTEs, so making progress but still under our required 7FTEs. **Motion to accept Financial Report: Hope Schmids, Brandon Webb. Approved.**

The Director’s Report was presented by Carolyn Reiste. Continued focus on excellent customer service. Carolyn brought some ideas back from library conference she is eager to implement. **Motion to accept Director’s Report: Jessica McManimen, Curt Unruh. Approved.**

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: Anne will step down from her role as Board President at the end of this year but remain on board to finish term. Curt, Hope, Jess and Brad will renew 2nd 3-year term. In good standing with 9 board members and slate of officers in place. Will explore potential Bollman Hat connection for board. Committee is also focusing on how to support new board members as they fully integrate into group.

Personnel Committee: Reviewing evaluation form for Executive Director’s review. Once finalized, eval will be completed by board and staff and feedback shared with ED in November.

Fundraising Committee: Met in September and will meet again on October 18 at 12:15 PM. Focus is on fall campaign letter and Extra Give open house.

New Business: Extra Give Open House at library on Friday, November 17 from 4-6 PM. Social media campaign is ready – guess the book cover created from LEGOs. Please bring donations for Thanksgiving basket to November board meeting. In need of live music. Contact Marj if you know of someone willing to play during event. We will be more intentional about giving stations. Miss Jess suggested “adopt a book” strategy. Fundraising Committee will reach out via email with more details after next meeting.

Old Business: Waiver - The board approved a resolution to apply for a waiver of standards on September 27, 2023.

3 Points from staff to board:

1. Anderson Pharmacy is providing free COVID and flu vaccine clinic for staff.
2. Laura doing great with 3D printing. Held first event.
3. Customer service training continues. Who do we serve? Keep in mind the wide range of patrons. Even small efforts like picking up trash create a positive experience for our customers/patrons.

3 Points from board to staff:

1. Referendum
2. Nominating committee is focused and looking for volunteers
3. Remind staff to help with EG Open House

Motion to adjourn: Cindy Mellinger, Brandon Webb. Approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Hope Schmits, Secretary – AAL Board of Trustees