

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 17, 2021

Present: Janine Buesgen, President; Board members Gary Fisher, Cathy Murphy, Joan Ryder, and Suanne Strauss. Also present Cheri Fiory, Library Director. Technical Assistance provided by Township employees Deb Ritter and (sorry - I didn't write down her name). Absent: Board Members Wendy Rader, Treasurer, and Andrea Merrick, Secretary. Several members of the public listened to the part of the meeting but did not participate.

President Buesgen convened the meeting at 6:37 PM and read the Township's protocols for virtual meetings.

The Consent Agenda was reviewed. The minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting and the financial reports for January and February 2021 were accepted without objection. Director Fiory drew the Board's attention to the recently released 2020 Annual Report and noted that next week is National Library Week and the UD Board of Commissioners recognized this and adopted it for Upper Dublin at their last meeting.

There was no public comment.

Friends Update. Cathy Murphy gave the Friends update. The Capital Campaign has raised \$671,645.53 (61% of the 1.1 million \$ goal). The Friend's annual meeting (via Zoom) is on April 8, 2021. For the coming year, the Friends will focus on getting more volunteers, increasing membership and the Capital Campaign. Ernie Piro, who will be running the library's café, will be introduced, virtually, at a library event. The Friends will raffle off a ticket to hear/see (virtually) David Baldacci on April 29, 2021, the county's author of the year. A copy of his latest book is included in the ticket price. The jewelry sale will be by appointment only on April 23, 2021. A discussion of the future of the book sale/store/craft store ensued. There is no one person able to volunteer to take Linda Walker's place. Hence, Director Fiory and the Friends are working together to find a team of volunteers to process book contributions, maintain the book display, etc.

Governance 101 Workshop. President Buesgen and Director Fiory led a discussion of the Governance 101 program which was attended (virtually) by all the Board members. The Board members agreed that UDPL was doing better than most of the participants in that we have a Mission statement, written specific expectations of what is expected of a UDPL Board member, township-wide ethical standards for all Boards and Commissions, and new Board member orientation by the Director and Board President. No Board member term limits and the lack of bylaws appeared to be our most significant differences with some of the other libraries. The Board agreed that the nature of our Board (appointed by the BOC, no independent budget authority, etc.) made bylaws unnecessary. Director Fiory suggested that she may organize a Board retreat where governance, term limits, etc. as well as other issues, including budgets (the Library

budget has been significantly reduced in the past two years, even prior to the pandemic), could be discussed off the record. The Board recognized that no votes could be taken and that specific changes to the Board structure or duties could not be finalized at such a retreat.

Library Hours. Director Fiory explained how the Library's hours were slowly expanding. A discussion of neighboring libraries and their hours ensued. The aim is to be fully open, hopefully by June/July. One issue is that library workers are not specifically eligible for vaccines yet (they are category 1C), and that is hindering expanding hours. Library visits and usage has increased every month and Sunday hours are especially needed.

Study Room Usage Policy. A full discussion of the proposed policy ensued, with a few amendments suggested and accepted. The policy is awaiting review by the Township Solicitor. Assuming he approves, email approvals from the Board will be solicited.

Fine Free Discussion. The question of fines generated a great deal of discussion. Fines represent 2% of the library's budget and replacing that amount will be an issue for the BOC. Suggestions included a "donation" jar (although the Friends are also considering installing one and the Library can't have two). The issue of fines goes to questions of diversity, equity and inclusion. The American Library Association supports a fine free library: "***The American Library Association asserts that the imposition of monetary fines creates a barrier to the provision of library and information services.***" The ALA also "*urges governing bodies of libraries to strengthen funding support for libraries so they are not dependent on monetary fines as a necessary source of revenue.*" Director Fiory pointed out that due to the pandemic, the library has already been fine free for more than a year. The Board moved to adopt the ALA position as an ultimate goal.

United for Libraries. The Board voted to approve \$80 per year to join this group.

Library Director Evaluation. President Buesgen reminded everyone to complete the Library Director evaluation form online and return it to her within the week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.