

Meeting Minutes of the Peru Free Library Board of Trustees
April 12, 2023

Attendees: Patrick Andrews, Terri Cioppa, Rocky Divoll, Sandy Divoll, Diane Haight, Marque Moffett, Parker O'Mara, Becky Pace, Sara Richman.

Absent: Tracy Orkin

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm by President Marque. The agenda was approved with a motion by Rocky and seconded by Sara. The minutes of the March meeting were approved with a motion by Rocky and seconded by Pat.

Director's Report—There was an art reception at the Library for the current paintings by Ian Burcroff. The exhibit will be on display through May.

The grant from Stewart's for \$650 to fund the summer children's art program has been received.

Nicki LaPlante, our volunteer gardener, has completed a spring cleanup of the grounds.

The cost of the insurance for the Library has increased by \$1000 to \$6927. The increase is based on the cost of replacing the Library building as determined by an adjustor. The current assessment for the building is \$1.6 million. Jim Langley, our insurance agent, has made a personal donation to the Library for \$700.

A discussion about planting a tree in honor of Shelley Fracalossi continued from a previous meeting. Becky had spoken to Nicki LaPlante about suggestions of type of tree and the location on the Library grounds. Since Shelley had connections with Canada in her lifetime, the idea of a Canadian variety of tree was appropriate. Nicki suggested a Canadian Hemlock for the eastern front corner. However, it was determined that the tree, for several reasons, would not be a viable variety for that location. Becky will discuss other options with Nicki.

The Circulation Report, which was sent to Board members by Stacey, indicates that the general circulation and number of patrons are increasing at a steady pace.

President's Report—Marque will probably be a candidate for a seat on the Town of Peru Board. If she makes the decision to pursue this, she will remain as a member of the Board but could not continue as President. If she is elected to the Town Board, she no longer can be a member of the Library Board.

Treasurer's Report—The balances for the accounts are checking--\$4,182.32 and money market--\$101,773.25. The total for both accounts is \$105,955.57.

The current money market account has a .05 interest rate. A Business Prime money market account has an interest rate between 1.41 percent and 1.71 percent. A motion was made by Sara and seconded by Rocky to change our money market account to the Business Prime money market account. The motion passed.

Sara recommended that the Board consider investing a portion of the funds in the money market into a Certificate of Deposit. Since there are different lengths of months for CDs with varying rates of interest, we should consider both the number of months and the amount of money that could be invested. Sandy will review the balance of the money market each month for 2022 to 2023 to determine how much this fluctuates. This discussion will be continued at the May meeting.

Since the Construction Grant funds were received several months ago and the actual work will not begin until May or later, the contractors' estimates have increased. However, the actual costs will remain within the budget of the grant.

Building and Maintenance Report—Rocky will review all options to the use of salt on the sidewalk because the pavers themselves are becoming worn from the salt. Also, Rocky has purchased 2 American flags for the flag pole to be used when one is needed.

Subcommittee Status Reports:

Budget Committee—The committee will meet in August to prepare for 2024.

Fundraising Committee—No Report.

Long Range Committee—No Report

Policy Committee—The change to the Bylaws about members participating in meetings via Zoom will need to become a policy. Becky mentioned there are also new policies that will be required soon.

Old Business—No report.

New Business—There is a webinar available on April 18th through the Trustee Handbook Book Club discussing the Board and Director Relationship.

Library Moment—An elderly man (103 years old) visited the Library to obtain a library card as he decided to read more than in the past few years. A particular area of interest to him is the Flat Rock area in Clinton County where blueberries are abundant in season. He related a story about his wife going there as a child picking blueberries with her family to earn money.

The dates for the next two meetings are May 10th and June 14th. At the June meeting we could again have a reception for the Board members, staff and volunteers of the Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm with a motion by Pat and seconded by Sara.