

SINKING SPRING PUBLIC LIBRARY MINUTES

January 22, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Sinking Spring Public Library (SSPL) was held on January 22, 2024. Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Board Members Present: Tracy Peterson, Carmella O'Toole, Allison Brophy, Ben Robitzer, Jenny Allbee, Lawrence Ross, Lisa Domeshek

Library Staff Present: Wenonah Riegel, Randi Zaborowski

Public: None

SSPL Friends: None

FRIENDS OF SSPL REPORT

Received check from Friends for \$1,600.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Ms. Allbee made a motion to approve minutes Mr. Ross seconded all approved

REVIEW OF TREASURERS REPORT

Ended 2023 \$12,000 in the positive.

PROGRESS AND SERVICE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Display:

- We are currently featuring self-care, fiber arts, and mysteries. A display of children's books was put out for Martin Luther King Day.

Past Programs:

- The adult holiday mixer program on December 30th was a success! Thirty people were in attendance. State Senator Judy Schwank also attended the event. Andrea said she asked a lot of good questions and really liked our library store! She thought it was really neat that we had local Pennsylvania products for sale.

New Programs:

- January 24th is our Pop-Up Book Club for Veterans and others featuring The Killing Floor by Lee Child
- February 14th the library will host a Pal-entine's Day Adult Mixer for our patrons. There will be board games, puzzles, snacks, movies, and door prizes.
- February 3rd Bernadette will be here to teach a painting class. The painting is reminiscent of Monet's Water Lilies.
- The schedule for programs for the year is almost complete. This will be the main schedule, but we may add or subtract depending on what is happening later in the year.
- A baseball program is being planned for Saturday June 15th. This program will focus on the history of baseball in Reading.
- The Berks County Master Gardener programs have all been scheduled. They will start in February and go through July. We will also have a program in September on bulbs. The programs will be held the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am just like last year.

- This year we will be starting a seed library. We researched this last year and found some really interesting heirloom seeds to include in the library. We will also be including indigenous Lenape seeds and heirloom Pa Dutch seeds based on availability.
- The library will get one or two waist high large wooden planter boxes this year for a two part herb program. The first part of the program will be doing a presentation on planting herbs. The second part of the program will focus on how to use herbs.

Donations:

- Henry Janssen Foundation \$5,000
- Liberty Fire Company \$1,000

Grants:

- We recently applied for a grant from the Juniper Fund. This is a \$500 grant for organizations who are promoting Scottish history, culture, and art. If we are successful we will have a hand spinning workshop later this year. The workshop will focus on historic breeds of Scottish sheep, learning how to spin on a wheel and using a Scottish Dealgan spindle. The workshop will be approximately 6-6.5 hours and will accommodate 5 people.

Partnerships:

- I have been in discussion with Russell Slocum and Karen Weber from Art Plus Gallery about having an art show in the library on three consecutive 3rd Fridays in the fall. We plan to meet in the future to discuss this in more depth. I am calling this "Art in the Stacks."

Meetings:

- I attended the virtual meeting of the Berks County Veterans Association's Crosstalk on January 10th to promote our upcoming veterans and others pop-up book club featuring the Killing Floor by Lee Child.
- The meeting was well attended by organizations working with veterans in Berks and Lancaster County. I learn a lot about these organizations and what libraries can do to help veterans.

Staffing:

- After the last meeting, I thought about the job we have been advertising and its limitations. Aside from money, one of the biggest obstacles to hiring has been the job description. We have been advertising for nights, weekends, and some days. The job requirements has "everything and the kitchen sink" included in terms of availability. My thinking was that if you are working full time you would not be able to apply for a job with those requirements. I decided to divide the job into parts in order to make it possible for more people to apply. So we advertised a Saturday only job, an evening job, and we are currently advertising an afternoon with the possibility of some evening hours. The response has been positive and we have been seeing more qualified applicants applying. It also helped that we were given permission to go beyond a staff of 10. The candidates who work full time love the idea of Saturday hours. The staff that

work during the week love the idea of less or no Saturdays. The staff morale has improved immensely since we have been discussing moving in this direction.

- The library has two new hires contingent upon their clearances being turned in and waiting for the Borough to vote. We heard from a third candidate tonight who accepted the job contingent upon her turning in clearances, reference check, and the Borough vote.
- We had our inspection for AARP and we passed. All of the necessary paperwork has been completed.

Staff Training:

- The staff had a training day for Spark/Evergreen on January 10th
- Those staff member who could attend watched the program using our new television computer set up
- The staff that were not able to attend were able to watch the recorded version of the training.

Cash Register/Square:

- The library will be looking into Square as a way to offer credit card payment. This may increase sales significantly.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Air conditioning system will not come out of library budget, will come out of borough budget.

Ms. Peterson is hoping by March the assisted living facility is up and running.

Ms. Zaborowski said Robotics club has started and have met 3 Saturdays so far.

The board discussed moving the food bank so it is out of the sun. Ms. Peterson said she would look in to having it moved.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Zaborowski has met with the Wilson High School Principal and their public relations person and explained all that the library has to offer for high school students.

LIBRARY SYSTEMS MEETING REPORT

Mr. Robitzer will attend the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

NEXT MEETING OF SSPL: February 12, 2024

NEXT SYSTEMS MEETING: February 21, 2024