

Barberton Public Library
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, April 22, 2021

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Caroline Brindo
Jennifer Doll
C. Racyne Leskanic
Heather McMullen
Holly Miller

ALSO PRESENT

Ann Hutchison, Director
Michael DeSan, Fiscal Officer
Melissa Futrell, Deputy Fiscal Officer
Anna Shorter

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Terri Masich
Leon Ricks

President Brindo called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

This Board meeting was held both in person and virtually using Microsoft Teams. Brindo and Miller attended virtually; all other attendees were present at the Library. Members of the public were given the opportunity to request an invitation by emailing Hutchison.

Hutchison introduced Shorter, a MLIS student from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, who will be completing her field experience at BPL this fall.

Hutchison reported that the Friends of the Library are planning a Grab and Go Bag Sale to be held on the Library's front lawn on Saturday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a rain date of May 29. Hutchison thanked the Friends for their continued support of the Library and its programs. Hutchison plans to request the following donations from the FOL: \$1,000.00 for the Children's Department's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, \$2,600.00 for six lightweight meeting room tables, with options for lesser amounts and quantities, and \$700.00 for Chair Yoga programs twice monthly for the second half of 2021.

Moved by Leskanic, seconded by McMullen, **to accept the minutes** of the March 2021 Board meeting. Ayes: Doll, Leskanic, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Circulation: Hutchison shared a report of staff continuing education from the first quarter of 2021, and reported that all staff have completed the annual training required for BPL to remain a Kulture City sensory inclusive location.

Hutchison noted that circulation continues to rise, and that March 16 marked the one-year anniversary of the Library's initial closure due to COVID-19. As a result, Hutchison believes that the increases in circulation that BPL is seeing month to month are more impactful than comparisons to 2020. Brindo requested that a column for 2019 be added to the circulation report. Hutchison noted that other Summit County libraries are reporting that their circulation is down approximately 30%

March 2021 circulation was 27,056, up 39.3% from March 2020 and nearly 21% over February 2021. eMedia circulation through Overdrive was 5,324 in March 2021, down 4.6% from last March and up 1.8% year to date. An additional 240 eMedia titles were borrowed through Hoopla in March. In March 2021, 4,215 people visited the Library, down 19.6 % from March 2020 but up 31% over February 2021. Of those visitors, 102 received curbside service, and staff issued 94 new patron cards. Staff answered 2,655 reference questions, the Library's website was visited 3,084 times, and there were 2,478 wireless sessions. In March, 875 items were added to the collection and 281 items were withdrawn.

Programs & Publicity: In March 2021, 608 people attended 41 live programs and outreach events via Zoom and Facebook Live, and an additional 1,869 people participated in or viewed 78 passive and recorded programs and outreach events, for a total of 2,477 participants. Upcoming programs of note include Scottish Bagpipe Music and Stories, the fourth installment of Local History Librarian Sarah Hays's Scottish American History Month series,

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featuring the Akron and District Pipe Band on April 27, What's That Noise? The 17-year Cicadas are Back presented by Jacqueline Kowalski, MA on April 28, Virtual Murder Mystery: Totally Rad 1980's Prom Gone Bad on May 18, and Growing Terrific Tomatoes with Master Gardener Lee Paulson on May 20.

Hutchison shared that the Rocky River Public Library has received news coverage for their Drag Queen Story Hour program.

Donations:

Friends of Barberton Public Library - \$300.00, in support of Craft Connections & *A Documentary History of Religion in America*, in honor of Ken Cornelius
Carolyn Jackson - 3 bags of books

John McAnlis - 33 books
Jason & Megan Slater - 40 CDs
Anonymous - 630 Books, 40 CDs, 42 DVDs, & \$8.00

Moved by Doll, seconded by Leskanic, **to accept the donations.** Ayes: Doll, Leskanic, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Other: Hutchison shared that she will be attending Kiwanis Amplify, a leadership program, through a sponsorship from the Kiwanis Club of Barberton.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Public Library Fund tax distribution for the month of April 2021 for the Barberton Public Library was \$69,026.62.

There was a discussion regarding the Library's Certificates of Deposit. DeSan has renewed the CD that expired on April 15, 2021 despite low interest rates, and plans to investigate other options for financial investments.

Moved by Leskanic, seconded by Doll, **to accept the financial report, bank reconciliations, and bills** paid for the month of March 2021. Ayes: Doll, Leskanic, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Audit Committee: No meeting held.

Personnel Committee: No meeting held.

Building and Equipment Committee: No meeting held.

Summit County Library Trustees Council: No meeting held.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OLC Legislative Update: Hutchison reported that the Public Library Fund is currently set to revert to 1.66% of the State's General Revenue Fund, down from 1.7%. The decrease, plus a proposed 2% decrease in income tax will have a detrimental effect on Ohio Libraries. It is imperative that library staff and Board members contact their legislators to advocate for their support. Hutchison and Akron Summit County Public Library Director Pam Hickson-Stevenson are scheduled to meet virtually with Senator Vernon Sykes on Thursday, April 29 at 2:00 p.m. Brindo would like to attend as well. Hutchison shared information about OLC's Library Trustee Town Halls, which are being held in lieu of their annual Trustee Dinners. She will register any interested Trustees.

Community Correspondence: None.

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OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Updates: Hutchison asked the Board for guidance on returning to in-person meetings and programming. The Friends of the Library have inquired about having meetings of 20-25 members, and Children's Services Manager Alison Huey is interested in returning to in-person storytimes. After discussion, it was generally agreed that such gatherings would be permissible provided participants wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines.

NEO-RLS Salary Survey: Hutchison reported that DeSan has submitted the NEO-RLS Statewide Salary Survey. Results are expected to in early July 2021, and the Library's NEO-RLS Gold Membership will allow us to purchase the results at a heavily discounted rate.

The Library's Founders' Day activities, held on April 7 to coincide with National Library Week, included promotional items for customers and raffle baskets. The event was well received.

The Library will participate in Barberton City School's Summer School Extravaganza, with staff visiting different locations to provide activities for the students. The Schools will also distribute BPL's Summer Reading Club materials to students.

NEW BUSINESS

DeSan informed the Board that he will not be available to attend the August 29, 2021 Board Meeting and requested that it be rescheduled for the previous Thursday, August 19.

RESOLUTION 14-2021 Moved by Doll, seconded by McMullen, **to reschedule the August 26, 2021 Board meeting** for Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Ayes: Doll, Leskanic, McMullen, Masich, and Miller. Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

Hutchison shared that Barberton has been selected as one of fifteen finalists for the National Civic League's 2021 All-America City Award, and that she contacted the Mayor's office to inquire if BPL can be of assistance or participate in any way. Justin Harter, the Community Development Administrator for the City of Barberton and lead contact for the All-America City Award Presentation, has invited Library staff to participate in two events related to the contest, the Civic Action Fair and the Cultural Entertainment Showcase.

Suzanne Allen, Executive Director of the Barberton Community Foundation, contacted Hutchison to share that BCF has asked Heritage Ohio to conduct a Downtown Assessment Review Team (DART) visit. Part of the application process involves the creation of a Stakeholder Group of volunteers to represent the community, which Hutchison has been invited to join.

Moved by Brindo, seconded by McMullen, **to move to executive session** to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of an employee or official at 7:11 p.m. Roll call: Brindo, aye; Doll, aye; Leskanic, aye; McMullen, aye; Miller, aye. Motion carried. Hutchison, DeSan, Futrell, and Shorter remained in the room.

Moved by Brindo, seconded by Doll, **to end executive session** and return to regular meeting at 7:20 p.m. Roll call: Brindo, aye; Doll, aye; Leskanic, aye; McMullen, aye; Miller, aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doll, seconded by McMullen, **to adjourn** the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Ayes: Doll, Leskanic, McMullen, and Miller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Caroline Brindo, President

Holly Miller, Secretary