

Upper Merion Township Library Board Meeting

January 16, 2012 6:45-7:35 PM

Attendees:

John Egan, Helene Thorpe, David Bristowe, Tracy Pasquale, Aleta Duey, Sharon Duris. Library Director Karl Helicher, and Carole Kenney

Minutes

- Minutes of the December 2011 Library Board meeting were approved.

Board Reorganization:

- The Library Board welcomed Carole Kenney, Upper Merion Township Board of Supervisor's liaison to the library board.
- The Library Board re-organized as follows: Dr. John Egan remains as the chair, Helene Thorpe remains as vice-chair, and David Bristowe remains as the secretary.
- The Library Board will meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:45 pm
- Meeting dates for 2012 (all beginning at 6:45 p.m.):
 - February 13
 - March 12
 - April 9
 - May 14
 - June 11
 - July 9
 - August 13
 - September 10
 - October 8
 - November 12
 - December 10

Adult Services

- The Book Discussion Series, "Time, Place, Perspective" will run from March 18 to May 20 and so far 29 people have registered. Books were available for distribution in December to allow more time for registrants to read the books.
- Four Book Chats are planned through the end of February – Chris Wheeler (*View from the Booth*), Cordelia Francis Biddle and Elizabeth Brown (*St. Peter's Church*), Barbara Hoffer (editor of the *Library Journal*), and Al Meltzer (*Big Al: Fifty Years of Adventures in Sports Broadcasting*).
- Plans for the Celebration of Black History Month, scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2012 are completed.
- Spring sessions are planned with topics including personal organization, gardening, and money management.

Children's Services

- Story Hour registration for Winder hours began on January 9 with the six-week story hour commencing the week of January 23.
- The Children's Department is subscribing to two new e-book services from Scholastic – TrueFLIX, and BOOKFLIX.
- Planning continues for the summer reading program based on the theme - Dream Big:Read.
- The library will soon be able to offer online registration for events through Evanced Solutions Event Manager software. Once operational, plans include for a link on the library's website for patrons to directly sign-up for events.

- Sue Kirkpatrick, Kristine Penese, Laura Arnhold, and Kristen Pedemonti began the library's outreach program to local daycares and nursery schools.
- There are currently 44 active reading buddy pairs meeting weekly for reading practice at the library.

New Business

- The library board continues to share thoughts on potential candidates for the 2012 Library Friend of the Year.
- County funding for MCNPL will be flat this year, which is good news considering the economic environment.
- Karl mentioned that he is looking forward to another great year for the township library. Library use increased 3% in 2011. E-book purchasing will continue, but as Karl mentioned, is becoming problematic from the standpoint that two major publishing companies will not sell e-books to libraries, due to the impact they feel it would have on their business model.
- Electronic copies of Board Meeting materials will be distributed prior to the meetings, with a few items distributed in hard-copy in the meeting (Agenda, Minutes, and for the Secretary, the Director's Update).
- Aleta shared with the Board how nice the Dr. Martin Luther King In Upper Merion Township ceremony was, where Karl received the prestigious Community Service Award.
- Carole graciously offered her assistance to the Board with anything the Board can use help with, in particular as liaison for the library to the Board of Supervisors. Karl mentioned that the main opportunity for the library is for increased part-time staff to help with running, developing, and administrating library programs and services.

Upcoming Events

- February 13, 2012 – Library Board meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


David Bristowe, Secretary