

Thorntown Public Library Board of Trustees
May 13, 2024
Minutes

President Barb Hillger called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Also present were Chuck Behrens, Jennifer Bopp, Linda Fahrenbach, Judy Johnson, Barney Lewis, Director Christine Sterle, Treasurer Barbara Darnell, and board assistant Kathy Bowen.

Jennifer moved to approve the agenda with a second by Judy. Vote 5-0

Judy moved to approve the April Secretary's report with additional claims presented by Barbara Darnell. Jennifer seconded. Vote 5-0

Barbara presented the Monthly Financial Report. Receipts into the operating fund for April, 2024 were \$27,542.56. Operating fund disbursements totaled \$57,818.06. April's ending cash balance was \$1,034,652.15 with investments of \$276,288.00. Total Cash/Investments were \$1,310,940.15.

Chuck moved to approve the Register of Claims with a second by Linda. Vote 6-0

With no public present the board proceeded to Reports.

Christine shared Kirsten's Thorntown Heritage Museum report. The museum is scheduled to open 11am-4pm on Memorial Day, May 27. There will be tours, refreshments, and a raffle that will benefit the barn repair fundraising efforts.

A history of wedding dresses event is scheduled for June 22 to show off three new wedding dresses. Kirsten will be doing the presentation. She has reached out to the Boone County Historical Society on the possibility of loaning a dress that SCHS donated to them in 2020.

Kirsten is working to finalize dates, times, and ticket prices for a painting fundraising event she would like to hold at the library.

The Ice Cream Social has been set for August 3.

Volunteers are needed for some Saturday shifts at the museum.

Kirsten will be doing an interview with Radio Mom to talk about the museum, the opening day, fundraising etc. on Friday, May 17 at noon. In addition to this promotion, she is working on creating some updated brochures, a quarterly newsletter, and planning more social media interaction (which includes a new Instagram account).

Old Business:

Roof work is to begin Thursday, weather depending. The roofer has conferred with pest control about bats so they will be able to escape without getting sealed in.

HVAC Software – Envelop/OCS has provided a proposal to upgrade software with an option to replace the global controller. The upgrade to Compass 2.0 is \$6,275. The cost to replace the global controller is \$11,730. (The GC upgrade will need to be done within the next couple of years, but the price was provided for budgeting purposes.) North Mechanical will

have a quote to us at the June meeting. It may not be competitive, since they will have to switch out at least some components to work with a Honeywell system.

New Business:

Parking Lot Repair – A sinkhole was discovered by Karen’s driver side front tire on Friday, May 3. It is approximately 3 feet deep from what we could see. Christine contacted Thorntown Utilities and they brought a barricade Friday. They returned Monday with gravel to fill the hole. They believe it’s an old well that was filled in, but water from the aquifer beneath has eventually carried away some of the old fill. They are letting the gravel settle for a few weeks and will come back to check on it. I will talk with them after vacation and see what they think, then call Young & Sons to patch the hole, if that’s what needs to be done.

Strategic Planning – The planning process will begin this summer! Three board volunteers are needed to participate as part of the strategic plan committee. Board, staff, and a couple of community/library stakeholders will make up this committee. Key dates: Monday, July 29, 10am-12pm kickoff meeting at TPL; Monday, October 28, strategic plan retreat 10am-3pm at TPL; August 3-5 in-person interviews with assigned community stakeholders. Community Conversations (focus groups) have been scheduled for the week of August 19 (committee does not need to be involved in those). Staff operational retreat will be November 8, 10am-3pm. Initial draft review will be December 2 and will be presented at the December 9 board meeting.

Gutter Repair – Hinshaw Sheet Metal & Roofing will repair the leaky gutters and downspouts in August. They are scheduling out several weeks and I’ve asked them to wait until after summer reading. I can request a formal estimate if you like, but they’ve said to expect \$2,000+, much of it to get the lift here to do the work. They will inspect and address all guttering while they’re here (not just the obvious leaks). The gutter repair estimate was approved by consensus.

Director’s Report

The north door is locked for now – the mechanism isn’t working properly. Mulhaupt from Lafayette will be here tomorrow to take a look.

Tomorrow is the Friends of TPL annual meeting and plant swap. Book sale setup is also tomorrow. Lori Rader-Day is our special guest. Please join us!

Christine is attending the ILF regional conference at Carmel on Wednesday. She has a meeting with AVC on Thursday for our annual Technology Business Review.

Summer reading begins June 3 for all ages. Youth programs will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm.

Jennifer motioned to adjourn the May board meeting with a second by Barney at 6:57 p.m. Vote 6-0.



Linda Fahrenbach, Secretary