

Leelanau Township Library Board of Trustees Meeting February 24, 2025

Present: Mark Morton, Rick Gans, Amanda Kruk, Dale Lersch, Jamie Scripps

Absent: Mary Robertson

Staff Present: Julie Alpers-Preneta, director

Public and Friends Present: Karen Cross, Rick Cross, and via Zoom- Patty Noftz, Alana Osumi

- I. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:04pm
- II. Approval of minutes: Rick moved to approve the January minutes, Dale approved. Unanimous approval.
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Rick Cross expressed deep concerns having read and annotated *Mandate for Leadership*, also known as "Project 2025." Rick and Karen have been tracking the Federal Register and tying new executive orders to the book, some orders have been taken verbatim from the book. Rick noted that this book is not available at any library in the county, nor is it available through MeL. Rick and Karen would like to see the book available at the library, would like it go be read and discussed. They had purchased their physical copy from The Heritage Foundation but noted that there is a free .pdf copy available online now.
 - B. Rick Gans wanted to note that Trivia Night at the library would be from 6:30-8pm the following day.
- IV. Director's Report
 - A. Data shows January was busier than Julie had even realized! Hoopla numbers are rising. Burns night was a success despite frigid temperatures. Library's new website will be live this week.
- V. Financial Report
 - A. Money moving discussed at the last meeting hasn't happened yet. An anonymous donation in the form of a \$10,000 check was made earmarked for a capital campaign. Line 920 Heating- the Township has not sent a bill yet. Julie will ask about sewer bill. Library is receiving the tax capture.
 - B. Rick moved to accept the financial report, Jamie seconded. Unanimous approval.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Strategic Planning- beginning the work plan for FY 25-26. Board members discussed and shared thoughts on potential initiatives and goals, including reading a written note from Mary (not present). Amanda led a structured discussion by category, the key points are as follows, and Amanda will input the results from the discussion into the strategic plan.
 1. Focus Area #1- Programming, Resources, and Services: Plans for enhanced tween and teen programming, including a summer book group. Other ideas include Battle of the Books and public speaking workshops. There is an appetite for additional after school activities, and any activities with students would be either in partnership with the school, LIFT or at the very least communicated for transparency and outreach. Find ways to better serve and engage our community Spanish speakers and members of the GTB- for example, offering a Spanish language story time.

2. Focus Area #2- Facilities & Infrastructure: A facilities and infrastructure planning committee will be formed, consisting of two board members, one to two members from the Friends of the Library, and public members, including potentially a builder. The committee's initial tasks will include visiting other libraries, gathering information, and drafting a case statement for funding. Engaging an architect/designer early in the process was emphasized, as changes later in the building process can cause extra delays.
3. Focus Area #3- Engagement & Awareness: Identify and recruit "resident champions" to share the library's story with the community.
4. Focus Area #4- Staff: Hire full-time programming staff by Sept '25, identify professional development opportunities, making use of existing education stipend.

B. Budget

1. Payroll adjustments include a 5% wage increase. This does not include additional hours for Erin. Payroll (and everything associated with payroll) is the main budget increase.
2. Consideration of increased costs for utilities, including electricity and heating. Electricity will be adjusted to reflect the trend in 2024. Heating and sewage bills will require discussion with the township.
3. Public computers (3 years old) and staff computers (2 years old) may need to be replaced, specifically with a new Windows update.
4. The Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 is scheduled for March 17, 2025 at 7pm. The public is encouraged to attend. Public notice will be published at least seven business days in advance. The regular board meeting will follow.

VII. New Business

- A. Rick Gans attended a leadership meeting which discussed facilities studies, housing initiatives, and the possibility of hiring a grant writer; however, the board agreed the library can write grants if needed at this time.

VIII. Public Comment

- A. None

IX. Closed Session

- A. Dale moved to enter a closed session at 8:25 PM to discuss real estate matters. Rick seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved.
- B. Dale moved to return to open session at 8:55 PM. Rick seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. Adjournment

- A. Mark Morton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM (directly following the Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2025-2026)

Notes recorded by: Alana Osumi

Minutes submitted by: Amanda Kruk, Secretary