

**INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY (IVPL)  
Board of Trustees Meeting (BOT)  
September 21, 2023**

The September BOT Meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Grande at 7:58 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present** – Officers- Dr. Alexander Grande, President; Wendy Leshinskie, Secretary; Darren Johnson, Treasurer.

**Board Members-** Janelle Adams; Steven Boell; Doug Johnson; Suzi Leonard; Betty Linko, Foundation of Friends (FOF) representative; Beth Styer; and Margie Stern, Director.

**Absent Members-** Penny Price, Vice President.

**Audience-** People from the public

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

July Meeting **Minutes.** Dr. Grande- No additions or corrections.

**Treasurer's Report/Financial Statements-** Mr. Darren Johnson. August was a quiet month with no municipal receipts while expenses continued. Utility costs are increasing with the overages being paid with money received from the VNA grant. Ms. Stern calculates a 14% increase in the utility costs for the 2024 budget.

**Director's Report-** Ms. Stern. Highlights from Ms. Stern's report include an exceptional turnout of children participating in the Summer Quest Learning program and a record number of [children's] books checked out.

The Puzzle Table in the Reading Room is a huge success. There are about 8 people working regularly at various times to finish the 1000-piece puzzle each week.

New at IVPL will be the “Library of Things” featuring items or tools patrons may need infrequently and therefore, do not warrant their purchase. Initial items include a telescope, outdoor screen, projector, power washer, Cricut, various outdoor games, and specialty cake pans. The collection will be housed in the Pennsylvania Room on the former Travel Books shelves under the window.

Lower Salford is pursuing the idea of constructing a multi-use building to be used by the YMCA child care, Access Senior Services, Boy Scouts, summer recreation programs, and the library. These various organizations could share facilities in a “commons” type of setting.

Annual Appeal 2022-23: 872 gifts totaling \$100,250. YTD (Last year’s total was \$84,155.84.)

**Monthly Statistics-** 2023 statistics show patrons are attending library programs. Children attending programs are up 144% year-to-date over this time last year. Young adults at programs are up 221% year-to-date, while adult attendance is up 154%. Overall patron visits to the library, however, continue to lag behind 2019 pre-COVID levels by almost 50%. (Increased availability of Zoom for meetings and programs; curbside pick-up; and e-books and e-music, streaming, and e-learning and research

make it easier for patrons to use library resources without entering the library.) **Monthly Report** focuses on lifelong learning opportunities for adults, the August statistics for library visits and items borrowed, and a review of the successful Dinner in White fundraising event.

Motion was made by Ms. Styer with a second by Mr. Boell to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous Approval.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Facilities-** Ms. Leonard. Community Room ceiling repair and painting are now scheduled for November. There is a water leak in a lavatory, but the place of origin is unknown. (Water usage is almost double that of May-July last year.) Plantings around the parking lot were trimmed for better visibility for cars and pedestrians.

**Foundation of Friends-** Ms. Linko. Spring appeal have brought in almost 600 total members and more donations than previously. Promotions include video spots at the Broad Theater and tables at Souderton's Third Friday in October informing the public of upcoming library fundraising events and programs. A Budget Committee was formed to create a 2024 budget. Fundraising. The **Dinner In White** (DIW) event was a huge success (240 attendees and over \$16,000 profit.) and keeps getting bigger and better. (Souderton Community Park has already been reserved for August 2024.) The BOT gift baskets generated more income than the FOF basket so the FOF will provide the BOT with coffee and pastries at an upcoming meeting. FOF is again challenging the BOT for a gift basket donation for the **Wine Tasting** event in November. The July 2024 **Beer Fest** committee in partnership with the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club is meeting and making plans.

The joint BOT/FOF annual meeting will be held on December 21 at the regular BOT meeting.

**Personnel-** Ms. Stern. Mimi Bell will be retiring in November after 28 years of employment.

**Strategic/Marketing Plan-** Mr. Boell. A marketing/promotion petition has begun to circulate through *change.org* with a goal of 500 signatures. This campaign seeks primarily to raise awareness of the library and raise funds to support IVPL. Petition signers do not have to be residents of the Souderton School District. 250 Lawn Signs are available for anyone to show their support of the library.

**By-Laws Committee-** Mr. Boell. By-Laws have been reviewed and are ready for review and input by our solicitor.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ms. Stern. Policies. The first draft of the revised Meeting Room Policy is complete. (Room occupancy is 109 people.) The Code of Conduct (Defining dress code, alcohol and animals in the library, and non-permitted uses of the parking lots.) and Collection Development Policies (to include BOT review procedure for disputed materials) continue to be updated. New Photographing and Video Recording and Unattended Child Policies are being studied. Some of these policies will be ready for BOT approval and implementation by the end of the year.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Dr. Grande. New Board Member. Janelle Adams has been interviewed and comes to us as a member of the FOF Board. She is filling a vacant 'at-large' position. Motion made by Mr. Boell, seconded by Ms. Leshinskie to appoint Janelle to the position. Unanimous approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Shawna Boell from the audience visited the library and noted how excited children were to be getting new books, going to the Lego Club, and planning to attend the Truck-a-Palooza on Saturday while seniors were coming to enjoy Open Mike night. She thanked the library for being a place that meets the interests of all age groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46a on a motion made by Mr. Boell and seconded by Mr. Doug Johnson. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Leshinskie, Secretary

**Next IVPL Board meeting:** October 19 at 8:00 am in the Community Room.

**Next Foundation of Friends:** October 11 at 7:30 am in the Community Room.