

## Mars Area Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes October 21, 2024

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ray and Jennifer made a motion to amend the September minutes. The motion was approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Motion to approve: Rob made the motion, and Staci seconded. The motion was approved.

**Librarian's Report:**

- **PaLA Conference:** Janae attended the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) Conference, October 6-9.
- **Community Outreach:** Vince resumed the following programs:
  - Storytime at Little House
  - Tech Time & Trivia at PenMar
  - Added Overbrook Senior Care to monthly visits
  - Scheduled a date with St. Barnabas for Tech Time
- **Friends of the Library:** The recent book sale and raffle baskets were a success, raising \$4,500.
- **Mars Light Up Night:** Wrapped books, prepared by the Girl Scouts, will be distributed.
- **Holiday Closure:** The library will be closed for Veterans Day.
- **Program Highlights:**
  - 32 programs held with 788 attendees.
  - Youth highlights:
    - Partnered with Agway for the Touch-a-Truck event
    - Lego Club
    - Teen Advisory Board
  - Upcoming Events:
    - Edible Haunted Houses
    - Teens & Tweens Snap Circuits
- **Fundraising & Grants:**
  - Applied for PLA Digital Literacy Workshop grant
  - Applied for Libraries Transforming Communities grant
  - Annual Campaign in progress

**HR:** No updates.

**BCFLS:** No updates.

**Marketing:** No updates.

**Building Maintenance:**

- Coordinating with Garland to inspect the roof.

**Planning:** No updates.

**Fundraising:**

- Proposal to sell donuts and coffee on Election Day as a fundraiser.

**Old Business:**

- **Notary Service:** Janae researched offering notary services; no plans to move forward at this time.
- **Middlesex Township Update:** Emily and Jeff reported that Middlesex plans to increase funding to \$35,000 in 2025, pending board approval. This increase would equate to \$5 per resident.
- **Board Member Application:** One application has been received from Middlesex Township.
- **Budget Update:** Ed reached out to Greg. The 2025 budget remains incomplete, and the library awaits confirmation on potential funding increases.

**New Business:**

- **2025 Budget:**
  - Anticipated revenue and expenses suggest a challenging financial year.
  - Exploring sponsorship opportunities, with Janae reaching out to local businesses.
  - Lawn care expenses are under review to find cost-saving options or potential donations of equipment.
- **Library Closures:**
  - Proposed closure Swap for November 11 (Veterans Day) to Friday After Thanksgiving.
  - The board approved closures for 2025, including the Friday after Thanksgiving. Staci approved the motion; Rob opposed.

**Public Comments:**

- Frank expressed concerns about funding from Adams Township:
  - Questioned why Adams' contribution has decreased despite prior support.
  - Raised concerns about the Mars Discovery Center and the allocation of a \$2 million gift, as well as the reduction of a \$40,000 gift from Adams Township.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2024. All in favor.

**Adjournment:** The board made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved.