

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 27, 2021
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390**

CALL TO ORDER Barbara Garbutt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Barbara Garbutt, Chairperson
Jason Pernick, Vice Chairperson
Betsy LaFond, Secretary
Vanessa Magner, Township Board Trustee
Shane Lakner
Donald Petersen

Absent: Barry Hiscox

Also Present: Alyson Lobert, Library Director

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Lakner, supported by LaFond, to approve the October 26, 2021 Library Advisory Board Meeting Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION by LaFond, supported by Lakner, to approve the Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2021, with a correction to page 4 Item 9 Township Board Remarks first bullet change "suspending" to "suspended" and third bullet remove the word "she". **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEM 4: CORRESPONDENCE

The following email was received from Melissa Mersch: I am contacting you today in reference to the title "This Book Is Gay" which is in the teen section and can only be described as a "how-to" book for depraved, unsafe sexual perversions. This Book is Gay describes the "pleasures" and techniques of anal sex for young people. Why is this pornography being introduced to teens in our public library? Any parent would be shocked and sickened by this book. These types of books encourage sexual activity and need to be removed from the children's library and/or the teen section. This is pure propaganda that targets teens and should not be available in the Teen section of the library. The standards of choosing reading material for children and teens must have some standards to protect children and teens from pornography. The public library

ITEM 4: CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

should be promoting the good of the community. This kind of garbage does not belong on the shelf of the library where innocent children and teens can be exposed. Please remove it from your teen section so that they can be protected. I look forward to your prompt response.

A form was placed in the library's comment box from Chetna Mahajan stating she was very impressed by the Maker's Space displays in the library. Additionally, she commended Journey and Shelby for spending time explaining how everything works.

ITEM 5: FINANCIAL REPORT

Library Director Alyson Lobert, reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure Report for the period ending September 30, 2021.

ITEM 6: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Director's Report

Library Director Lobert:

Congratulations to the Friends of the Commerce Township Community Library. The Friends held their first used book sale in two years, raising \$7,085.75 in support of the Library!

Michigan Library Association's annual conference was held earlier this month. Adult Services Librarians Alexis Shirk and Latonia Phillips, Teen Services Librarians Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera and Lauren Aquilina and Youth Services Librarian Journey Robinson attended sessions over the course of the two-day event.

I am thrilled to officially welcome Don Petersen to the Library Advisory Board! Don was appointed at the October 12, 2021 meeting of the Commerce Township Board of Trustees.

We have added the Wall Street Journal to the library's digital offerings. Patrons will use the link on the library's homepage to obtain a three-day digital pass to wsj.com. The experience is identical to that of an individual electronic subscription to the newspaper. As coming across a news article restricted by a paywall is frustrating, we expect that patrons will enjoy this access.

I also included an article about eBook lending at libraries that was published in the New Yorker. The article is a helpful summary of the current digital lending landscape. As we continue to appropriate more funds to downloadable books and audiobooks, I thought you may find the subject matter of interest.

ITEM 6: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (Director's Report continued)

October is Michigan Library Appreciation Month: I appreciate all that you do to make the Commerce Township Community Library a valuable institution in our community. Thank you for volunteering your time and your expertise throughout the year.

b. Program Statistics

c. Library Statistics

Library Director Lobert reviewed the September 2021 program and library statistics with the Board.

In-person story time has returned to the library.

ITEM 7: OLD BUSINESS

a. Display Policy

Library Director Lobert presented an updated version of the proposed Display Policy; the Library Advisory Board last reviewed this policy in September. She incorporated a few small suggestions from the Township's attorneys.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEM 9: TOWNSHIP BOARD REMARKS

Trustee Magner:

- The Township Board has been working on the 2022 budget. They wanted to keep Strategic Planning in the budget.
- The developer for 5 & Main, Bruce Aikens, attended the Township Board Quarterly Discussion meeting last night to give an update on the project. He said 35% of the space is leased out. He cannot get financing until 80% of the project is leased. He is providing the Township Board quarterly updates and the next one will be in January, 2022.
- The Township's Halloween hours were approved
- She advised Supervisor Gray that the Library Advisory Board discussed the library remain open except on actual holidays. Some Board members felt that keeping the library open would better serve the public.

ITEM 10: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MOTION by Magner, supported by LaFond, to recommend to the Township Board of Trustees approval of the Commerce Township Community Library's revised Display Policy.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS

None

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ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lakner, supported by Pernick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Betsy LaFond, Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Commerce Township Library Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2021.