

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 28, 2022
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
Barry Hiscox

Absent: Donald Petersen - excused

Also Present: Alyson Lobert, Library Director

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Lakner, supported by Hiscox, to approve the September 28, 2022 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 August 24, 2022, as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Sawmiller, 3090 Belle Terre, Commerce Township, MI quoted the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the freedom of speech, religion and the press. He said this includes an individual's right to receive information on a wide range of topics from a variety of viewpoints. Public funded libraries play an important role in facilitating free and open acts information.

Colleen Crowley, 2405 Verna Lane, Commerce Township, MI, does not think any book should be suppressed or banned from a public library. She supports the First Amendment rights.

Violet Anderson, 17305 Hickory Wood, White Lake, MI, said she spent 5 years in the military and supports the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and her right to read any book she chooses.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS (continued)

Becky Spagnuolo, 3066 Bennington Dr, Wixom, MI, supports the library's right to freedom of speech. She asked the library to not ban books. It should be the parent's responsibility, not the library, to decide what their children should read.

There was another patron of the library present that is in support of not banning books.

ITEM 4: CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from Angel Lyman thanking Bill Wines for hiring her as a Library Page 10 years ago when she was a high school student. She now has her dream job and credits Mr. Wines for his support and direction.

A memo was received from Tina Entwistle thanking Lauren Aquilina for a great job she is doing with 2-3 year old story times program at the library.

ITEM 5: FINANCIAL REPORT

Library Director Lobert reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure Report for the period ending August 31, 2022, (54.87% of the budget was spent so far this year).

ITEM 6: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Director's Report

Library Director Lobert –

September brings with it the start of the Library's fall programming season. The slate of fall programming at the library includes a genealogy series for beginners, American Sign Language for kids, robotics and a Shakespeare lecture. These programs are held in addition to regular weekly and monthly programs such as Chess Club, storytimes, yoga, makerspace and book discussion groups.

CTCL's librarians are hosting a winter reading program where, instead of earning prizes, the participants would be earning food for the hungry who live in our community. During a giving-focused time of year, we thought that our patrons would value the opportunity to make a difference in their community in addition to reading a lot of really great books. Track your hours read from Thanksgiving through January 1, 2023 and help earn food for our hungry neighbors through donations. For every 100 hours read collectively, the Friends of the Commerce Township Community Library, in partnership with generous individual donors, will donate a pound of food – up to 1,250 pounds of food. The Friends will donate a maximum of \$1,790 (1,000 lbs. of food) and I have another individual donor who pledged that they would kick in another \$447.50 (250 lbs. of food).

Imagination Library registrations continue to grow: 641 Commerce Township children under the age of five are currently enrolled in the program. 94 children have turned five and graduated from the program. We have officially exceeded the \$7,000 we budgeted

ITEM 6: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (continued)

at the launch of the program; we projected 366 children would register for Imagination Library in 2022.

The Friends of the Commerce Township Community Library's next used book sale will take place in the Library's White Pine Room, October 5-9, 2022. Individuals interested in volunteering at the sale can register at tinyurl.com/FriendsFall2022

CTCL closed early – at 6:00 pm – on Monday, August 29, 2022 and remained closed through Tuesday, August 30, 2022 due to a power outage. The budgeted generator project continues to progress, slowly. The Library will soon undergo a load test to determine the proper sized generator to power the full building.

I am pleased to welcome Robyn Jenkins to the Commerce Township Community Library's staff. Robyn is CTCL's newest page. She comes to us from the Bloomfield Township Public Library.

Carolyn Christenson, Library Page, has resigned. She is a Walled Lake Central High School student and needs the time to focus on her education and after school projects.

Supervisor Gray received a few complaints about the banned book displays. Library Director Lobert has not personally seen any texts or email messages regarding this. If a patron has a concern they can fill out a Request for Reconsideration form and submit it to the library. The majority of the negative comments received are coming because of the display in the children's room.

We will have an upcoming project called the Book Bike, which is a mobile library funded by a generous donor. The bike will have a wooden box on it that will hold books for residents to check out. Library staff will pedal the bike out into the community at various locations.

Chairperson Garbutt said she received a call from someone who wants to donate a Little Free Library that will go into Wise Woods on the north side of Wise Road.

b. Program Statistics

c. Library Statistics

Library Director Lobert reviewed the August 2022 library program and statistics with Board members.

ITEM 7: OLD BUSINESS

a. 2023 Budget

Library Director Lobert reviewed the complete version of the Commerce Township Community Library's 2023 draft budget. This was submitted to Janet Bushey, Finance Director and Supervisor Gray.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

a. 2023 LAB Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2023

February 22, 2023

March 22, 2023

April 26, 2023

May 24, 2023

June 28, 2023

July 26, 2023

August 23, 2023

September 27, 2023

October 25, 2023

December 13, 2023 (Moved to 2nd Wednesday to combine Nov/Dec meetings)

ITEM 9: TOWNSHIP BOARD REMARKS

Trustee Magner reported on the following:

- Budget meetings are being held every Tuesday.
- There was a proposed 32 home development off of Commerce Road near Union Lake Baptist Church.
- The Engineering Contract with KER Engineering, Inc. was extended for 4 years.
- A Motion was approved to terminate the concession agreement made between The Charter Township of Commerce and Carrie Hancock DBA Wind Mill Farm. The sub-committee recommended terminating the agreement and continuing to explore alternative options.

ITEM 10: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MOTION by Lafond, supported by Magner, to recommend approval of the Library Advisory Board Meeting Schedule for 2023 by the Township Board of Trustees.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Magner, supported by Lakner, to recommend approval of the Commerce Township Community Library's 2023 budget by the Township Board of Trustees, as proposed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Garbutt said Library Director Lobert will be presenting at the Michigan Library Conference of The Year in Port Huron, Michigan. She was invited to sit on a panel with four other library directors to discuss leadership topics.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Magner, supported by Lakner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Charter Township of Commerce Library
Advisory Board Meeting
September 28, 2022
Page 6 of 6*

Betsy LaFond, Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Commerce Township Library Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2022.