

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by President, John Deibert. Those in attendance were Mark Aronson, Bob Baker, Karen Brodsky, John Deibert, Elizabeth Faulkner, Rick Gallo, Barbara Hyzer, Jos Kadam, Polly LaDuc, Roni Larini, Kathy Redling, and Rita Stein.

Karen Brodsky formally introduced Lia Carruthers, new Youth Services Coordinator, to the Board and she received a warm welcome.

Public Session - Donald Buset, President of the Library Board of Trustees, shared thanks from the Board for the Friends continued support of the Library. He spoke about the Board's recent decision regarding the financial agreement for the installation of solar panels at the library and answered questions raised by Friends members.

On behalf of the Library Foundation, Donald noted that the Friends' appeal letter was excellent. Additionally he noted that a Memo of Understanding between the Library Board of Trustees, Friends and Foundation was to be forthcoming.

Minutes Approval -

The minutes of the Board's July meeting were previously provided to all board members. John Deibert mad a motion to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting. Kathy Redling seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with two members abstaining from the vote.

President's Remarks -

John noted that he had attended the recent Board of Trustees meeting where members of the public came with questions on the Solar Panel decision. He felt that the public had come away with an understanding. In Georgiana and Doug's absence he shared their Fund Raising committee work sending out 2-300 letters to prior donors in pursuit of 2011-12 contributions. Letters are going out to others involved in the Library's functions and services.

Correspondence -

Rita Stein read Harold Kuskin's letter of resignation to the Board. John Deibert moved to accept his resignation effective immediately. Elizabeth Faulkner seconded the motion and following a vote of the full board, his resignation was accepted with regret.

Treasurer's Report -

The balance sheet was not available, but the board members present were informed that at the October Executive Board Meeting a current balance sheet would be covered. John Deibert and Karen Brodsky spoke to the value of the recently acquired Debit Card. The Library staff has been successful with recent purchases at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

John Deibert presented a quote from the Hurley Insurance Agency for a 3 year Non-Profit Professional Liability policy with an annual premium rate of \$930/year, noting that this included no increase over our current policy. Questions from Board members were addressed regarding the \$1,000,000 level of coverage, the renewal date of 11/1/11, the broadened view of Loss Endorsement to include an employee component. In summary John called the policy a Directors and Officers Liability policy. Bob Baker made a motion to purchase the 3 year policy. Polly LaDuc seconded the motion and 11 members of the board voted to approve the motion via a roll call vote.

Finance Committee - Mark Aronson shared the tentative 2012 Budget and went over proposed levels and the prior spending levels and reasoning for changes from the 2011 budget. The "Gifts from Other Fundraising" and "Undesignated Expense" lines were discussed in detail.

Director's Report - Karen Brodsky spoke of the great patron response to the 5 new Children's Stations recently installed with the \$13,000 funds from the Friends. The Learning Express online resources will again be purchased with funds provided along with a Quick Source Guide for participants to use in our computer training program. The Bernardsville News has not been producing any digitized form for several years, and a cost sharing partnership has been reached with the Bernards Township Library to share the expense of microfilm production for the past 4 years' issues.

With the increased demand for eBooks (including Kindles) the library staff requested technology and subscription services to improve this process both legally and technologically for patrons. Within the remaining funds for 2011 the Friends were requested to fund two (2) Kindle eBook readers along with Nook-compatible titles and one (1) iPad for staff use including the compatibility testing, procedure development and provisioning of eBook readers. From lessons learned during the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, a 24-inch LCD screen in the Circulation Desk was proposed to provide community and library information to patrons and residents.

Elizabeth Faulkner made a motion that the 2 Kindles, 1 iPad, and LCD Screen be authorized from the Furnishing and Technology Account for \$11,052. Rick Gallo seconded the motion and following a roll call vote the motion was passed.

Nominations - Elizabeth shared a copy of the Nominating Committees' slate of 3 candidates for the Classes of 2014 and one candidate, David Mulgrum, for the Class of 2013. She took a moment to introduce David, who was in attendance. A full vote for new Board members will be held at the November Annual Meeting.

Programs - Jos Kadam noted that the next Sundays@3 program was scheduled for October 23rd with the Daniel Bennett Group, a Jazz Trio. Unity Day is scheduled for October 1st and Jos circulated a signup sheet for members to work at the Friends' booth. Discussion of the information and activities to be presented at the booth was held and agreed upon. Karen thanked the Board for publicizing the Library, its services and need for donations.

Publicity - Caroline Browne's recent article in the Bernardsville News was met with positive feedback and upon the start of fall Story Time sessions her committee was going to concentrate on educating the parents of young children about the Friends and the key role we play in providing all of the children's programs.

Ad-Hoc Committee - John Deibert reminded Board members that a vote would be taken at the November Annual meeting to formally approve the revised By-Laws of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library. He also thanked former board members Harold Kuskin and Tom Shea for tackling the project of reviewing, researching and revising the By-Laws to provide us with an excellent working document. Rita Stein made a motion to recommend the last version of the revised By-Laws be brought to vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library Association on November 16, 2011. Mark Aronson seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of Board members present.

Old Business - None

New Business - Bob Baker reminded members that the Green Team of Bernardsville was partnering with Basking Ridge and hosting a Shred day on October 8th from 9 - 1.

After asking if there was any further business for the good of the order, John Deibert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. Barbara Hyzer seconded the motion and following a vote the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Redling

Recording Secretary