

**Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes for September 15, 2010**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by President John Deibert. Those in attendance were Mark Aronson, Karen Brodsky, John Deibert, Georgiana Depew, Doug Doremus, Barbara Duffy, Elizabeth Faulkner, Rick Gallo, Barbara Hyzer, Shellie Iossa, Jos Kadam, Harold Kuskin, Roni Larini, Kathy Redling, Tom Shea, and Rita Stein.

Business

The minutes of the July 21, 2010 Board Meetings were previously provided to all board members. Tom Shea made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2010 meeting, and Mark Aronson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with one member abstaining from the vote.

President's Remarks

John Deibert thanked the board members and fund raising chair, Georgiana Depew for coming prepared to discuss personalized solicitation of donations and a discussion followed. John indicated that he, Roni Larini, Harold Kuskin, and Tom Shea had attended the September Library Board of Trustees meeting as representatives of the Friends' Board. He reviewed the Library's State Aid and how it would be decreasing over the next 3 years. The Library Board of Trustees discussed the need for additional fund raising to support programs as well as operating expenses. He mentioned the library's need for additional morning volunteers to perform the duties of an employee who would not be at the library for several weeks and thanked those Friends Board members who were already volunteering in this capacity.

Correspondence - Rita Stein indicated that none had been received.

Treasurer's Report-

In Jackie Somers absence, John Deibert reviewed the balance sheet and current asset levels. Questions were raised about the lack of balance between Assets and Liabilities/Equity. It was noted that this had also happened during a previous month in 2010. Harold Kuskin made a motion to accept the Balance Sheet with corrections to be presented at the October Executive Board meeting. Tom Shea seconded the motion and following a vote the Balance Sheet as of September 14, 2010 was approved.

Director's Report-

Karen Brodsky thanked the Friends for funding the Genre-Based (interest-oriented) End Range Signs for Nonfiction. They were installed today, and their impact for patrons is not yet known. The staff is very pleased to have them. She also noted that the Museum Pass Program, complete with procedures has been wildly successful. Board members asked about which museum passes were generating more usage, however, Karen did not have that information readily available. She did tell the Friends Board that she would possibly propose expansion of the program after a six month evaluation period. Hopefully all Friends Board members have seen the newly installed Reader Services Office window and appreciate that it is achieving the primary objective of allowing management to orchestrate the movement of staff as patron needs change on a daily basis and beyond. She noted that it is a wonderful Library Management tool.

Karen shared with the Friends a recently received patron gift and Microsoft 2010 Grant that will allow the Library to upgrade all of the PCs to Microsoft Professional 2010 and will include the latest releases of MS Office as well as MS Publisher. She indicated that the balance of \$613 will come from the Friends 2010 Technology Plan funding. Additional children's enrichment items will also be purchased in support of the recently received SHEF grant. In support of the ESL classes, Friends Spanish Materials account funding has recently allowed for a subscription to Easy English News.

Karen indicated that she had no new funding requests, but they were selling little note pads with the Library Artwork for \$2 each as a fund raising measure. Following the conclusion of the summer reading programs, Karen provided a summary of the participation level in the "Make a Slash" themed program. Parents were pleased with the program's quantities as well as creativeness. Outreach portions continued at the YMCA camp, Robin's Nest Preschool, and Burger King. The finale was held on September 11<sup>th</sup> with scientist John Lyga doing wet and wild water experiments.

### Committee Reports

Finance –Mark Aronson shared the status of the current 2010 budget, and the proposed 2011 budget created from input provided by Karen Brodsky. Board members raised questions on category details and funding history for several categories and a discussion followed on each. Mark made notes and told Board members that he, Treasurer-Jackie Somers and his committee would review all points raised by Board members. The 2011 budget would be reviewed again at the October Executive Board meeting prior to its presentation at the Annual meeting in November.

Fund Raising- Georgiana noted that all of the solicitation letters had been sent out to past donors, and thanked her committee members. Doug Doremus reported that he and his Electronic Donations Committee had done further research and found that First Giving was not for the Friends. His committee was recommending the implementation of Click & Pledge payment system as there would be no upfront fee. Further description and discussion of the services options and features was held. Questions were asked concerning agreement of email addresses for validity checks and a donor's ability to unsubscribe from the non-profit organization's mailing list.

Discussion was held regarding sharing these plans with the Library Board of Trustees. The entire Board thanked Doug, Shellie and Jackie for their efforts in selecting the Click & Pledge program and moving it forward, working with Karen Brodsky-Library Director and communicating with the Library Board of Trustees before implementation.

Nominations- Tom Shea shared the list of Friends Board of Directors by class. He read aloud the members of the class of 2014 and made a motion to accept the class. Mark Aronson seconded the motion and following a vote the slate of candidates for the class of 2014 was approved. John Deibert noted that the list of Officers and Committee Chairs needed to be presented at the November Organizing meeting, and as such he asked Board members to speak with him and let him know their intentions for the coming year.

Program Committee- Jos Kadam noted that he has confirmed an Asian/Indian Classical Dance Performance for the Sundays @ 3 program on October 24, and he is in the process of finalizing the 12/13 Sundays at 3 program.

Public Relations – Shellie Iossa noted that no new news releases had been submitted. A modified policy for the Above and Beyond Student Awards to increase the number of hours required for students to receive Gift Certificates was presented. The increased budget level was presented, and it was noted that the remaining funds from 2010 would be rolled over into 2011 to fund the additional awards for the increased number of student volunteers. This policy would need to be formally adopted at the November Organization meeting with copies available for all Board members.

New Business-

John Deibert shared the time and date for the annual Friends Board gathering for departing, present and new board members.

Old Business-

John Deibert noted that an ad-hoc committee has been established with Harold Kuskin as chairperson for the purpose of Policy change and development. Currently they were not working to update or change any documents or policies.

Barbara Hyzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Duffy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Redling