

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2008

Vice-President Maureen Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Those in attendance were Mark Aronson, Karen Brodsky, John Deibert, Georgiana Depew, Barbara Duffy, Barbara Hyzer, Michelle Iossa, Jos Kadam, Loretta Mascaro, Fran Matson, Theo Mulgrum, Janet George Murnick, Jay Parsons, Kathy Redling, Maureen Robinson, Rita Stein

Rita Stein proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2008 meeting as they stand. Theo Mulgrum seconded the motion and minutes were approved without objection.

Theo Mulgrum introduced Mark Aronson as Maud Theibaud's replacement. Jos Kadam made a motion to appoint Mark and Jay Parsons seconded this motion. Mark Aronson's appointment was approved.

Special Presentation

Michaele Casey presented an informative power point program entitled "Video Games and Libraries". Her presentation highlighted the benefits of having video games available in the library. She provided numerous facts in favor of having approved video games for patrons of the library. She highlighted the benefits of video games by citing such things as:

- improved cognitive skills
- improved visual memory
- learning and applying scientific methods
- increased reading of texts and manuals
- cooperative learning

President's Remarks

Vice President Maureen Robinson spoke on behalf of President Tom Shea who was away during this meeting. Maureen formally introduced Mark Aronson and had everyone on the FBPL introduce himself or herself to Mark.

Correspondence- none

Director's Report

Karen Brodsky requested the use of \$6000 of the \$15,000 budgeted for the Technology Plan for computer replacements. She went on to explain the Library Long Range Plan adopted by the Library Board of Trustees on February 19, 2008. There are four strategic initiatives outlined:

- Strategic Initiative #1- To provide a diversity of current, popular and reference reading, viewing and listening material for community residents.

Strategic Initiative #2- To support the personal, educational and professional needs of all ages by providing access to materials, services and technological tools.

Strategic Initiative #3- To place special emphasis upon supporting young children, students and their parents in an appreciation of reading and learning.

Strategic Initiative #4- To make facilities and resources available for group interaction and community participation.

John Deibert moved to accept the Director's reports and Jay Parsons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Jay Parsons prepared the financial statement, reflecting total liabilities and assets of \$348,321.56. Our total contribution income so far this year has been \$34,456.55. Our total gifts that we have made to the library are \$67,035.95. Jay reported that there was a minor \$18.00 error in royalties on the note cards, which will be corrected.

Jay announced that he would be formally retiring as treasurer from the FBPL in July 2008. He recommended that the FBPL should get someone who is familiar with QuickBooks. John Deibert stated that the FBPL owes Jay a huge debt for helping us out, as we owed a \$3000 penalty found by the auditor who looked over our books prior to Jay becoming treasurer.

Committee Reports

Finance: John Deibert stated that he feels we can operate our budget based on the monies we have received. By March, John thought he would have completed an internal audit, but this hasn't been completed yet. He said he thought this could be done by the May 2008 meeting. He feels we are in pretty good shape but we must keep in mind that our financial cushion is gradually decreasing every year. He stated that Karen has been able to prioritize the library's needs quite well. He feels we need to be open to new ideas, but we also can't spend more than we have. John stated that the FBPL does need to find someone soon to take over the financial operations for the FBPL.

Karen Brodsky spoke that the vision the library sets for itself is long range and that she carefully looks at the budgetary restraints in her planning. She stated that the FBPL will play a major role in the long-range plans.

Adhoc: Jos Kadam- nothing to report at this time

Annual Fund Drive: The committee held a meeting on 2/13/08 to discuss various fundraising activities. Janet Murnick reported that the goal of the Fund Drive is to increase monies raised from \$40,000 to \$50,000. Fran Fischer and her husband Jerry, will act as a major gift coordinators for any contributions over \$250.00.

Georgiana Depew will head up a jr. committee for events for young families and children. Loretta Mascara suggested getting corporate sponsors. Another suggestion was the sale of the engraved bricks at \$250.00 per brick. The continuation of the Ghosting Project, a sleepover in the library and a spelling bee with Bill Moyers as moderator were other suggestions made for fundraising.

Program Committee: Jos Kadam spoke of the excellent turn out for both the January and March Programs. On April 27th, a Mariachi Band will be performing and on June 6th (Seniors Day), Andrew Roblin will perform. Jos asked for members of the FBPL to sign up to help with setting up at 8:00 am for Senior Day. He also asked that if the numbers are high for the Mariachi Band, could the concert be held outside? Karen Brodsky said she would look into that option. Jos asked for people to sign up for providing baked goods and chair set-up and clean up.

Public Relations: Michelle Iossa spoke that she is very passionate about working to increase the Library's public image. She complimented Jos on the wonderful Programs at 3:00 and how they show the library in a positive way.

On April 12th, there will be a Gaming Night at the library. Publicity for this will be done after the event to promote the purchase of the new Wii equipment and games that will be partially funded through the Ghosting Project.

Michelle said that pictures will be taken at Senior Day for a potential spread in the Bernardsville News "Happenings in the Hills" section.

Michelle asked whether the FBPL would be interested in participating in the town's Memorial Day Parade.

Michelle also spoke about the Summer Reading Program and would like to use some of the money from the Ghosting Project to pay for activities like an ice cream social, etc)

Currently, Michelle is working with Madelyn English to produce a new library brochure. The brochure would include information about library resources and The Friends. The cost for new brochures is about \$600-\$650.

Michelle asked that any information for the May newsletter be submitted to her by Friday, March 21, 2008. Kathy Redling asked whether the FBPL needed more pre-event advertising. Theo Mulgrum said we should make sure to address the

Latino community. Maureen Robinson asked if we could have a small section of the newsletter written in Spanish.

John Deibert stated that there was \$500 in the budget for a new brochure. Michelle said she would further investigate, as the cost may be flexible.

Volunteers: Loretta Mascara stated that the Annual Volunteer Luncheon was Thursday, May 8, 2008 at Maureen Robinson's house. Madelyn English would be providing her with the list of attendees. Loretta sent around a sign up list for food contributions for the luncheon. Maureen asked whether we could use the blank note cards we haven't sold for invitations. Loretta said she would make sure that the directions would be printed right on the invitation.

Bylaws: nothing to report

New Business- Maureen said that the Board of Trustees meeting was 3/18/08 and the library budget was set at \$880,000. The library would be considering a Plaque of Honor to recognize contributors. The garden Club will be redoing the landscaping in the front of the library. The Book Worm Book Store will honor 10% off coupons given out at the library during the week of April 13, which is National Library Week. Patrons will get a coupon if they check out a book.

Jay Parsons made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Hyzer seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Fran Matson