

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Jackie Somers-Treasurer, and John Deibert. Those in attendance were Mark Aronson, Karen Brodsky, John Deibert, Barbara Duffy, Barbara Hyzer, Michelle Iossa, Jos Kadam, Harold Kuskin, Theo Mulgrum, Janet George Murnick, Kathy Redling, Jackie Somers, Rita Stein and guests Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Ronnie Larini, and Shikha Mayer.

Approval of Minutes- Jackie Somers made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 27th Board Meeting. Mark Aronson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

President's Remarks-

John Diebert, in President Tom Shea's absence, congratulated Karen Brodsky and her youth services staff for the Senate proclamation and recognition for their early Literacy program by the New Jersey State Library Association.

Correspondence- one piece to be read later in the meeting per Rita Stein.

Treasurer's Report-

Jackie Somers presented the Balance Sheet as of July 1, 2009 and covered activities including receipt of all except one Matching Gift for donations received, approximately \$275.00 profit from the recent Tea held in June, and the TAC and Student Volunteer awards presented in June. The checking account balance is at the low point for the year to date.

The Finance Committee will be speaking with our Fidelity Investments representative regarding our investments.

Director's Report-

Karen Brodsky shared copies of the newly published Library Brochure and thanked Michelle Iossa for her contributions.

Next Karen summarized the two new recent purchases noted in the Director's Report for *Proquest Research Library* (a database of US magazines and journals) and three Children's Enrichment sets from World Book. All of these purchases were within budget funding already approved.

Karen brought several requests for new funding to the Friends Board. The first was for the renewal of the Dear Reader online book club, with 12 current individual clubs subscription, for \$200 (account-Special Programs). The second requested

additional funding for Rental Books as only \$161 of the original \$800 budget remains and demand for \$400-500 more is expected this year. The final request Karen noted was in the proposal stage. Library staff members prepared a detailed proposal for the selection, acquisition, and lending of Museum Passes for patrons which she shared with the Board. A discussion was held to share experiences and ask questions about the Princeton Library and Sparta Library programs and receptive and non-receptive Museums and costs.

Harold Kuskin made a motion to approve \$200 for the renewal of the Dear Reader subscription and a maximum of \$500 of additional funds for Rental Books. The motion was seconded by Theo Mulgrim and was followed by a vote of Board members in attendance. The motion carried unanimously.

John Deibert asked for volunteers to work with the Library staff to review options for possible Museum Passes and make a recommendation to the full Board at the September meeting. Harold Kuskin, Barbara Duffy and Janet George Murnick volunteered to work together, utilize the Princeton Library website and report back to the full Board at the next meeting on September 16th.

Committee Reports

Finance- John Deibert noted that the committee was approximately 1 month ahead of schedule and had been working closely with Karen Brodsky. They would have the tentative Budget ready for presentation at the September Board Meeting.

Another change for the 2009/2010 budget would include separation of revenue streams and expenses associated with particular projects or events. Gifts to the Library and Board Operating Expenses would be listed separately. The availability of revenue and expense connections will be used to help make decisions on Board involvement in future projects and events.

A Finance Committee meeting will be held in the near future with our Fidelity Investments advisory, and John solicited time frames for the meeting.

Fund Raising- Janet George Murnick shared details from her committee prior to the June Executive Board Meeting, noting that those people who have given in the past continue to give. Janet continued by summarizing the discussion from the June Executive Board meeting. She indicated that her committee would send personal letters with SASE (*Self Addressed Stamped Envelope*) to all donors who gave during the 2007/8 and 2008/9 campaigns. This will be supplemented by the letter Shellie has authored for inclusion in the 3rd Quarter Library Newsletter thanking donors and asking the community for their continued support. Janet noted that it is more cost effective to include a removable donation slip at the bottom of the donor listing in the September/October/November Library Newsletter.

Shellie indicated that a PDF file of the donation form was now available under the Friends Tab of the Bernardsville Library Website for those who wish to make a donation at any time of the year.

Janet confirmed that the Brick donation program will continue with Jerry and Fran Fischer coordinating that effort, and there are currently 6 bricks on order to be installed at a later date. She noted that donors receive a letter of thanks and a confirmation that their brick has been installed which includes its location.

The possibility of holding another Silhouette Session Day was discussed, and it was agreed to hire the artist again for the late fall 2009, as the fundraiser was very well received and raised a considerable sum without an excessive amount of volunteer hours required of Board Members. Georgiana offered to contact the artist and Library staff to secure a date for this fund raiser.

A discussion of methods for increasing the number of donors was held. Groups of patrons who might be receptive to donations that have not really been targeted were identified. Shellie and Janet offered to draft a letter for Friends Board members to send to acquaintances to invite additional or increased donations.

Shellie lossa made a motion to accept the 2009/10 Fund Raising strategy to include letters and SASE to donors for the two prior years, and a removable donation slip to be included in the Library Newsletter alongside the Friends Board President's thank you letter and the list of 2008/9 donors. The motion was seconded by Kathy Redling and was followed by a vote of Board members in attendance. The motion carried unanimously.

Lastly, Janet noted that a new Fund Raising Chair would be needed come fall, and it would be wise to recruit one soon so that she can work with them on the 2009/10 Campaign.

Program Committee- nothing to report.

Nominating Committee- Theo Mulgrum introduced visiting prospective members Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Ronnie Larni, and Shikha Mayer.

Volunteer Committee-nothing to report.

Public Relations- The recent TAC and Community Service Awards were acknowledged in the Bernardsville News with a nice article complete and a picture. Karen Brodsky thanked to Board for the nice awards ceremony. She noted that she and Michelle Casey have received numerous compliments from parents as well as increased requests from students wishing to volunteer at the Library.

Ad Hoc Committee- John Deibert requested that committee members remain for a short meeting following the completion of the Board meeting. The projects to recarpet the Teen Area and Children's Room of the Library with Carpet Tiles along

with the work in the Circulation Desk area will try to be scheduled for Saturday August 29th while the library is closed for a staff development day.

John Deibert made mention of possible Building Permits, Fire and Sprinkler System and Architectural Drawing work in the future.

Old Business-Rita Stein read a lovely Thank You note from Lourdes for the TAC and Community Service awards we recently presented to her and others.

New Business-Harold and Georgiana recently represented the Board at a Long Range Planning meeting with Karen Brodsky and Terry Thompson from the Library Board of Trustees. Topics that were discussed included Space Needs, Bernardsville's Changing Demographics, Long Term Funding, Evaluation of Technology, Maintenance Programs and their Economics, Lending Kindles not Books, and Growing the Children's Programs.

John Deibert noted that Bernardsville Unity day will be held on October 3rd this year. Discussion was held regarding past experiences with the creation and sale of Ghosting Bags. It was agreed not to make or sell them for 2009. Other possible fundraising ideas were presented and the concept of doing a sale of Friends of the Bernardsville Library 2010 Calendar was well received.

John Deibert, in President Tom Shea's absence, asked if there was any further business. None was noted, and Theo Mulgrim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marc Aronson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Redling