

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library
September 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Mark Aronson, Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, John Bertoni, Caroline Browne, Dorothy Carter, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Megan Hartley, Debbie Heimerl, Roni Larini, Dan Lincoln, Shikha Mayer, Janet George Murnick, and Nancy Verduin. Everyone was present. Also in attendance were Pat Kennedy-Grant of the Library, and Patrice O'Regan Cummings of the Library Board of Trustees.

Approval of Minutes

Nancy Verduin moved to approve the July 10, 2013 minutes, and Dan Lincoln seconded. The motion passed without objection.

President's Remarks

Roni Larini reported on the lovely farewell luncheon for Karen Brodsky organized by Terry Thompson of the Board of Trustees. She has received an email thank you for the Friends' donation to an animal shelter in Karen's name. Roni met with the interim director, Anne Meany. She thanked Caroline Browne for organizing the Ice Cream Social on August 15, celebrating the end of the summer reading program. Lia Carruthers counted over 120 participants. Denis Dooley and Debbie Heimerl helped at the event, and Janet Murnick provided serving supplies. The November/December newsletter will include the Friends request for donations. The printed donors list will include names of those who have given money to the Friends, the Foundation, and directly to the Library. The annual party will be held at Roni's home on Friday, November 22.

Vice President's Report

Megan Hartley attended the previous evening's Foundation meeting. The good news is that the Foundation has succeeded in meeting the Board of Trustees' request for \$100K this year. Megan reported that the Foundation has sent 70+ invitations for its Friday, September 27 gathering. Discussion ensued regarding overlap with the three months the Friends understood to be their fundraising season.

Correspondence

Debbie Heimerl sent two thank you notes: one to Chubb for printing the Library's brochures, and another to Penguin Ice Cream for again providing ice cream for our summer reading program finale.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker said he has forwarded 253 donor names to Madelyn English for the newsletter; this is 100 more than last year. The Friends grossed \$47K, netting \$40K after subtracting expenses.

Library Representative's Report

Pat Kennedy-Grant, Readers' Services Manager/Facilities Manager, thanked the Friends for media funding. DVDs are very popular, and the Library has been able to build up its British (BBC), PBS, and foreign film collection. Also, family friendly movies have been purchased. Regarding personnel, the Board of Trustees is searching for a new director. Good applicants are expected since Bernardsville is a five-star library. Anne Meany is the interim director, and Susan Schuler is the new Youth Services Manager. In circulation, Pat has hired two new, part-time staff.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mark Aronson distributed his 2014 Proposed Budget. He mentioned that he was not able to meet with Karen Brodsky prior to her departure. Essentially, the budget amounts are the same, and he is using conservative numbers for the 2013-2014 campaign.

Fundraising - Janet Murnick reported that everything is on track for the Christine Todd Whitman fundraising event on October 27. Sarah Glazar has sourced the invitations and Bob has provided the mailing list. Janet thanked

Terry Thompson for her tutorial on getting the lowest non-profit postage. After the event, the fund drive letter will be sent.

Nominating - John Bertoni reported that all current officers and chairs will continue. The one change is Debbie will be Fundraising Co-chair with Janet. Nancy Verduin agreed to step in as Corresponding Secretary. Doug Doremus offered to step in as Finance Committee Chair when Mark relinquishes that position.

Program - Shikha Mayer reminded everyone of two upcoming programs: author Mary McFadden on Sunday, Sept. 29, and a concert on October 13.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne also mentioned the successful ice cream social. The Friends provide copy for the Sep/Oct and Nov/Dec newsletters. She passed out a draft of the Friends brochure; she plans to have it ready for the October 27 event.

Volunteer Recognition - Sarah Glazar will coordinate the holiday gift bags in December.

Public Comments

Patrice Cummings of the Library Board of Trustees shared that John La Duc is working on the 2014 operating budget. He will present it at the upcoming Tri-Partite meeting. The job description for Library Director is about to go out. She thanked the Friends for giving space in the newsletter to list all of the donors. No one was present from the Foundation.

Old Business

Debbie Heimerl reviewed with the Board changes to the By-Laws recommended by the Ad Hoc committee. These changes will be voted on at the November board meeting.

New Business

The board meeting dates for 2014 will be Jan. 8, March 5, May 7, July 2, Sept. 3, and Nov. 5.
The executive committee meeting dates will be Feb.5, April 2, June 4, Aug. 6, and Oct. 1.

Mark moved, and Caroline seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary