

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
March 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Mark Aronson, Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, John Bertoni, Karen Brodsky, Caroline Browne, Dorothy Carter, Elizabeth Faulkner, Megan Hartley, Deborah Heimerl, Roni Larini, Dan Lincoln, Shikha Mayer, Janet George Murnick, and Nancy Verduin. Not in attendance were Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, and Sarah Glazar. Also in attendance were Patrice O'Regan Cummings of the Library Board of Trustees and Maria Myers.

Approval of Minutes

Debbie Heimerl made a motion to approve the January 30, 2013 meeting minutes, and Mark Aronson seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

President's Remarks

Roni Larini distributed new pages for Board members' Information Manuals. She reported that the Library has a new logo, which all Library groups will use. The Board of Trustees selected a half-round window graphic that will be easier to view on small, electronic devices. However, the Friends printed two years' worth of its stationery last year, and may continue to use it. At the recent Library Tri-Partite meeting, the Foundation agreed not to have a large fundraiser in the autumn. Its *Homes of Distinction* event will be held Sunday, May 19, the same day as the Street Fair. Author Maryann McFadden's speaking engagement is set for a Sundays at Three program on September 29. Roni said she joined the recent meetings of the Finance, Nominating, Public Relations, and Fundraising committees. The Volunteer Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 17 at Shikha Mayer's home. Note card packages have been restuffed by a Library volunteer, and are ready for purchase. The next Board meeting on May 1 will start with the Student Volunteer Awards.

Correspondence

Debbie Heimerl sent a condolence card on behalf of the Friends to Janet Murnick, whose mother passed away in February.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker distributed two sets of documents: 1) Summary of 2013 YTD & 2012 Cash Flows, and Summary of 1/31/13 and 12/31/2012 Net Assets, dated February 15; and 2) Summary of 2013 YTD & 2012 Cash Flows, and Summary of 2/28/13 and 12/31/2012 Net Assets, dated March 6. He noted that in the past two months several matching gifts have come in, approximately \$1,500, and over \$4,000 in direct contributions. The stock market investments are up.

Library Director's Report

Karen Brodsky was excited to report on the READ Poster initiative celebrating National Library Week, April 14-20. The theme is Communities Matter @ your library. Ed English is photographing Borough Council members for the posters. Bernardsville Print is gifting the insert for the *Bernardsville News*. The second phase will be for the summer reading program with the theme Dig Deep. Karen requested \$750 to cover both phases. Mark Aronson moved to approve her request for the READ poster initiative with funding to come from the undesignated line item. Dan Lincoln seconded; all present voted in favor. Lia Carruthers has submitted a \$4,000 grant application to the Dollar General Foundation. If she is awarded it, she will contact the Friends in order to use its 501 (C) 3 status.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mark Aronson reported that the Committee met to start its review of: 1) the Friends investment policy, dating back to 2005, in order to revise it; and 2) its investments in the Fidelity accounts.

Fundraising - Janet Murnick noted that Bill Moyers is a difficult act to follow for another fundraising event in October. The Committee met and agreed on the proposed topic of the Jersey Shore one year after Superstorm Sandy. It is now working on a speaker. Dolce Basking Ridge is the venue of choice.

Nominating - John Bertoni met with Committee members to discuss the one vacancy in the Class of 2013, and is looking for recommendations.

Program - Shikha Mayer informed the Board of the next Sundays at Three concert on April 28 with Jim Nuzzo, a singer and keyboard player, the Street Fair on May 19, and Seniors' Day on June 7.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne said she attended a PR meeting with the Foundation, which was very helpful. The sister organizations will share the newsletter by providing content for alternating issues. Madelyn English will coordinate this effort. There will also be coordination regarding any letter-writing to the *Bernardsville News*. The Youth Awards in May can be a photo-op provided parental permissions are obtained. At the Committee meeting it was suggested that the Friends try to use the BaskingRidgePatch, a local Internet newspaper also covering Bernardsville and Bedminster. The Committee is also working on getting quotes for the future Friends brochure.

Volunteer Recognition - Roni passed around a sign-up sheet for the Friends Volunteer Luncheon on May 17.

Public Comments

In the absence of Jerry Fischer of the Library Foundation, Roni provided information from his email to her. The Foundation's appeal letter will be sent in the next week. It has initiated a Platinum Patron designation for those donating \$1,000 or more. In addition, this year it has a matching grant of up to \$25,000 for those \$1K+ gifts. The Literary Ball has been moved to next spring, though the Foundation Board is planning some smaller events, such as a clambake and a barbecue. Patrice Cummings said the Trustees are thrilled that the Borough's draft budget includes \$915,000 for the Library, which is \$90K more than is required. She credited Karen Brodsky with fostering the good relations. Maria Meyers introduced herself. She moved to Bernardsville last August and has long loved libraries.

New Business

Roni suggested that the Friends By-Laws need some changes and requested members for an Ad Hoc Committee. Debbie and Nancy Verduin volunteered. The Executive Committee meeting will be moved to April 10.

Mark moved, and Bob seconded, to end the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary