

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
January 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Mark Aronson, Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, Karen Brodsky, Caroline Browne, Georgiana Depew, Denis Dooley, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Deborah Heimerl, Polly La Duc, Roni Larini, David Mulgrum, and Kathy Redling. Not present were Doug Doremus, Wanda Knapik, Shikha Mayer, and Rita Stein. (Bernardsville Library Foundation Trustees Chair Howard Lemberg arrived later in the meeting.)

Approval of Minutes

Kathy Redling made a motion to approve the November 16, 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes; Elizabeth Faulkner seconded. The motion passed with two abstentions. Mark Aronson moved to approve the 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes; David Mulgrum seconded. The motion passed with two abstentions.

President's Remarks

Roni Larini welcomed everyone, and was glad to see the many new board members. She distributed the Committee List for 2012, noting that everyone got their first choice. There are five people on each committee (including the chair), except fundraising, which has ten. Roni requested that the chairs have a committee meeting prior to the March board meeting (March 21), and that she would like to be invited to attend these meetings. At the Library Board of Trustees meeting in December, its budget was approved. It was noted that 80% of residents are library card holders. The FBPL Information Manual was started two years ago by Tom Shea and updated by John Deibert. All of the new members received manuals at the November meeting, some passed on by the departing members. Roni said the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) drafted by Donald Buset, President of the Library Board of Trustees, is being reviewed by the Friends and the Foundation. In the next month a draft MOU will be emailed to FBPL members.

Correspondence

In Rita Stein's absence, Roni mentioned that there were two letters recognizing the Friends in The Bernardsville News. She then read two letters received by the Friends. One was in appreciation of the Library staying open during the October snowstorm power outage, accompanied by a \$100 check. The second letter was signed by Governor Chris Christie and his wife along with a check in the amount of \$275.

Treasurer's Report

Polly La Duc, the new Treasurer, reported that through the end of December 2011, this season's Fund Drive has brought in \$20,590. To compare, she said at the end of December 2010 the total was \$26,700. Since August 31 approximately 120 donors have been identified. Polly noted that she is waiting for some matching gifts, which will add around \$500. She handed out a preliminary Balance Sheet; total assets as of December 31, 2011 were \$334,735.99. At the end of 2010, that total was \$364,794. Direct contributions to the Library in 2011 were almost \$48,000. Debit card usage totaled \$4,700. There continues to be FBPL and BLA (Bernardsville Library Association) confusion regarding matching funds. Kathy made a motion to authorize Polly to speak with Kathy Keating to confirm a price, not to exceed \$1,500.00, to have Keating Associates prepare tax filings for both state and federal, including compilations. Mark seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Library Director's Report

Karen Brodsky covered some of the topics in her written report provided to board members. The Library purchased two Kindle Fires, but decided against the Google Chrome, which was deemed too expensive and required a 3-year minimum lease. The staff will use old laptops as lending devices instead. Karen did not have any new funding requests. She reported that the Library staff is still processing the gifts. Karen discussed two positive items: 1) the Library has moved its website to Wordpress, a content management system that is more user friendly; and 2) Chief Valentine, Mayor Honecker and Council member McCrossan are meeting regarding CERT training to deal with emergencies; part of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Committee Reports

Finance - Mark handed out the FBPL 2012 Budget, expenses and income. He made a motion to carry over \$400 from the Furnishings and Technology line to cover the costs of the LeapPads. The motion carried unopposed. Mark said some items under Recurring Expenses are not yet finalized. \$2,334 and \$3,137 will go back into the General Fund.

Nominating - Elizabeth made a motion to elect Doug Doremus as Fundraising Chair; Kathy seconded. The vote passed. She read her suggested paragraph regarding the current Board vacancy in the Class of 2013 to post on the Library's bulletin board and on its website. There were no objections to it. This posting is made according to the By-Laws approved in November. She also confirmed that four Board members are currently serving their second terms. Rita is the only member that must leave in November, after serving two three-year terms.

Fundraising - In Doug's absence, Roni spoke about the need to come up with fundraising ideas. She noted that the National Friends of the Library Week in the autumn may be a good time to hold an event. Earlier, David said he would like to see two-year comparisons of donations categorized by amounts. Georgiana Depew will do the research.

Program - In Shikha Mayer's absence, Roni reported that the December 11th String of Pearls concert was a great program. Caroline Browne passed around Shikha's sign-up sheet for the January 22nd Sundays at Three event.

Public Relations – Caroline is writing comments about the Sundays at Three programs for the Library newsletter.

Volunteer Recognition - Bob Baker thanked everyone for their donations of goodies for holiday gift bags. 5-6 people helped assemble approximately 65 bags. The next event is the luncheon in May. A volunteer home is needed; one that can accommodate 40-50 people. Friday, May 18 is a suggested date.

Public Comments Session

Howard Lemberg said another Foundation direct mail letter will go out in March. In the past year the Foundation received approximately \$75,000 through its direct mail appeal, the Homes of Distinction event, and the Silent Auction. Work on the MOU over the past two months has been going smoothly. Howard noted that the Foundation's meetings are open.

Old Business - none

New Business - Kathy discussed using Google Docs for FBPL documents. There was some opposition to personal information being uploaded. Other members have used it, especially for sign-up sheets, with other groups. Further discussion will take place.

Elizabeth moved to adjourn the meeting and Mark seconded it. The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary