

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
March 21, 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, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Deborah Heimerl, Polly La Duc, Roni Larini, David Mulgrum, and Rita Stein. Not present were Georgiana Depew, Wanda Knapik, and Shikha Mayer. Also in attendance were John La Duc, Library Board of Trustees Treasurer, Megan Hartley, and Janet George Murnick.

Public Comments

John La Duc discussed Library funding. Monies from the Borough are based on property values averaged over the past three years. In 2011 the Foundation provided \$33,000, and in 2012 will aim for \$65,000. He is cautiously optimistic for the future.

Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Faulkner moved to approve the January 11, 2012 minutes with one revision (under the Treasurer's Report, it should state \$364,794 instead of "approximately \$360,000"). David Mulgrum seconded, and the motion passed with one abstention.

President's Remarks

Roni Larini informed the Board that Kathy Redling has resigned as Vice President because she has accepted a paid, part-time position with the Library. Board of Trustees policy states that an employee cannot also be a volunteer. Roni attended the Board of Trustees meeting at which John La Duc presented the Library's review of joining NJSEM to bid kilowatts of electricity at reduced rates. The auction takes place in April to become effective June 1. Roni attended the Foundation meeting along with Doug Doremus. Its fundraising letter will be sent soon, and the Homes of Distinction event will be on April 22. Roni passed out to the Friends board a printed copy of Board of Trustees President Donald Burset's State of the Library address, which she felt everyone should read. She also provided updated pages for the Friends manual, including the revised By-Laws adopted on November 16, 2011. She thanked everyone for having, and attending, committee meetings over the past two months. She informed Board members that student volunteer awards will take place at the beginning of the May 9 meeting.

Correspondence

Rita Stein reported that there was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report

Polly La Duc reported she has been looking at source documents to reconstruct and fully understand where FBPL monies are and why. (She provided a six-page hand-out to everyone with summaries of cash flow, net assets, bank account reconciliations, etc.) She also had good news to share: we met our fund drive goal of \$25,000. The follow-up mailing brought in several thousand dollars, and some matching grants are also due.

Library Director's Report

Karen Brodsky said the Library won the grant for the mobile app and Driinn mobile phone holder. Funding was provided by LibraryLinkNJ and the Friends. (The FBPL Executive Committee approved the \$595 at its February meeting.) The Leap Pads are in circulation,

and the digitized *Bernardsville News* files are arriving shortly. Karen made two funding requests. The first included monies for a locked cabinet, to hold loanable technology such as laptops, and Youth Services Office desk construction. Mark Aronson moved that the Board approve \$1,670 for the two. Debbie Heimerl seconded, and the motion passed unopposed. The teen area carpet tiles project is now ready to move forward. Caroline Browne moved to approve up to \$4,000 for it, and Mark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mark Aronson recognized Polly's many hours reviewing the accounts. The Committee met to review the Fidelity investment account, and will look closely at some of the funds in there. For next year's budget, the Friends will use the calendar year across the board, including the column for fund drive contributions, which has previously been stated on a campaign year basis (Sept. to Sept.).

Fundraising – Doug Doremus reported that the committee will try to meet on the first Wednesday of every month to work on its many ideas. The annual fund drive letter will go out on October 1 to avoid September. The week of October 21 is National Friends of the Library week. The display cases in the Library have been reserved for our use during October. An author luncheon is being discussed, and Doug has approached a publicist for recommendations. Other ideas the committee is considering include movie screenings, membership cards, small technology and ink cartridge recycling, raffles (requires a state license for an event), and creating a cookbook. Sarah Glazar added that the cookbook can be pre-sold and printed on-demand.

Nominating - Elizabeth Faulkner introduced Megan Hartley and Janet George Murnick, candidates for two vacancies on the Board forwarded by the Nominating Committee. Elizabeth moved to elect them, and Doug seconded. Next, Elizabeth moved that Janet become Vice President of the Board, and Roni seconded. (Note: Janet previously served on the Friends board for several years.) Both motions passed unanimously.

Program – In Shikha Mayer's absence, Roni reported that April 29 is the next Sundays at Three concert, and the Bernardsville Street Fair is scheduled for Sunday, May 20, at which the FBPL will rent a table.

Public Relations – Caroline Browne told the board that the committee discussed having a Facebook page. The Summer Reading Program, and the ice cream social at its conclusion, and Back-to-School nights in the autumn are opportunities for promoting the Friends with parents.

Volunteer Recognition - Bob Baker reported that the Volunteer Luncheon will be on Friday, May 18, and that Polly has offered her home. Invitations will be sent using eVite.

Old Business - Google Docs

Bob made a presentation on Google Docs, showing the board how it works, and how it facilitates sign-ups for organizations.

New Business - Student Volunteer Awards, May 9

Mark moved to adjourn the meeting and Debbie seconded it. The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary