

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
May 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The Library's youth volunteer awards presentation began at 7:04 p.m. Lia Carruthers, the Library's Youth Services Manager, told the audience that the Children's Program could not run without the student volunteers, who prepped approximately 4,000 crafts. This past school year 196 student volunteers provided 1,395 hours of their time. Above & Beyond awards required 11-29 hours of volunteer time. The Above Above & Beyond award was given to those with 30+ hours. Of this group, the average was actually 50+ hours. One student accumulated 142.25 volunteer hours. An award for pre-teens in grades 4 to 6 was also handed out. Friends President Roni Larini presented the awards, provided by the Friends, to the youth volunteers individually. Proud parents, family members, and members of the Library Board of Trustees and the Bernardsville Library Foundation, were in attendance. The Friends Board sat at its meeting table. After the presentation, everyone enjoyed cake and refreshments provided by the Friends.

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Mark Aronson, Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, Karen Brodsky, Caroline Browne, Denis Dooley, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Deborah Heimerl, Polly La Duc, Roni Larini, Shikha Mayer, David Mulgrum, Janet George Murnick, and Rita Stein. Not present were Georgiana Depew, Doug Doremus, Megan Hartley, and Wanda Knapik. Also in attendance were Donald Burset, Patrice Cummings, and John La Duc of the Library Board of Trustees, and Howard Lemberg of the Bernardsville Library Foundation.

Public Comments

Donald Burset, Library Board of Trustees President, thanked the Friends Board for the invitation to attend the Above & Beyond awards ceremony, noting that it is good to get the youth involved. He invited Friends members to attend the Board of Trustees meetings. He quoted John La Duc, Board of Trustees Treasurer, "We have achieved greatness; now the challenge is to sustain it." Howard Lemberg, Bernardsville Library Foundation President, noted the enthusiasm of the students, parents and families at the awards presentation.

Approval of Minutes

David Mulgrum moved to approve the March 21, 2012 minutes, and Mark Aronson seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

President's Remarks

Roni Larini said the Board of Trustees meeting will be the following week. She reported that the Foundation recently donated \$33,000 to the Library, and that the MOU between the three organizations will be moving forward soon. John La Duc informed everyone that \$897,000 had been approved by the Borough for 2012, which is more than the minimum required by law, \$820,000. Roni scheduled a fundraising meeting for May 15 at 7:30 p.m. for the entire Board to attend. And instead of an Executive Committee meeting on June 13, she may schedule another fundraising meeting the day before. Finally, she regretted reporting that Doug Doremus resigned today, after concluding he does not have the time to commit given his new work schedule, and other conflicting meetings.

Correspondence

Rita Stein reported that there was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report

Polly La Duc reported that donations for this year have reached \$27,700. Janet Keating, the Friends accountant, will be filing the federal return by the May 15 deadline. New Jersey State's is due at the end of June. Polly emailed to the Board a draft white paper dated April 22, 2012. It includes her suggested resolutions to vote on at the July meeting regarding restricted funds. She would like to reimburse the operating account for Blumenschine-eligible expenditures, and to have Board approval for her action to have interest and dividends earned on restricted Fidelity investments put into the unrestricted Fidelity cash account.

Library Director's Report

Karen Brodsky said Google Apps for non-profits is free to 501(C)(3) organizations, however the Library is 501(C)(1). Infrastructure costs can be saved, and she can administer it. Mark Aronson made a motion that the Friends vote to gift the Library the use of Google Apps and give Karen the right as Ex Officio to administer it. Debbie Heimerl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mark Aronson reported that David Mulgrum researched investments for the committee. They would like an analysis from Fidelity of the investments in the portfolio and to receive suggestions. Nothing has changed since 2005. David added that the Board should have directions for its investments. Discussion ensued regarding investment objectives and strategies.

Fundraising - In Doug Doremus' absence Roni asked Janet Murnick to speak about approaching Bill Moyers to be a speaker at a Friends fundraising event. Janet reported on the fundraising meeting in April, and then on receiving an email reply from Mr. Moyers (who agreed to speak at an event) addressed to her and Jerry Fischer of the Foundation. Discussion ensued regarding confusion about, and coordination between, the Friends and the Foundation, and their respective roles.

Nominating - Elizabeth Faulkner reported that Rita has to step down in November after serving two consecutive terms. In addition, she announced she will leave the Board after one term (having earlier served eight years). The Committee will be seeking people to fill the positions of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Nominating Chair.

Program – Shikha Mayer reported that the April 29 Sundays at Three jazz trio received a standing ovation. The Bernardsville Street Fair will be on Sunday, May 20, and Seniors' Day is scheduled for Friday, June 8. Brunch will be served and a vaudeville act will perform.

Public Relations – Caroline Browne reported that the Friends will sponsor an ice cream social for the summer reading program. Also, with Sarah Glazar's help, the Friends now have a Facebook page, which should help get its name out. It is signed up as a community organization with two facilitators. Lastly, Caroline has emailed the Somerset Hills School District requesting a presence at Back-to-School nights in the autumn.

Volunteer Recognition - Bob Baker reminded everyone that the Volunteer Luncheon will be next Friday, May 18, 11-2, at Polly's home.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary