

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
March 2nd 2016 Meeting Minutes

The Friends board meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Nancy Verduin. In attendance were John Bertoni, Bob Baker, Katherine Harris, Maria Myers, Debbie Heimerl, Janet George Murnick, Shikha Mayer, Sarah Glazar, Stephen Autenrieth, Denis Dooley, Joanne Kavanaugh, Lori Pakrul, and Jennifer Paragano. Not in attendance were Jamie Bertoni, Dan Lincoln, Caroline Browne, and Roni Larini. Also in attendance were Leslie Brown-Witt and Shura Arnold.

President's Remarks and Notifications

Nancy commented \$43.87 was spent on snacks for the upcoming Makers Day event. She also continuing to reach out to other Friends for ideas.

Vice President's Remarks

John was unable to attend the Foundation meeting, however Nancy attended. Leslie was asked to provide the Foundation update. At the meeting it was stated the major campaign will be announced at Homes of Distinction on May 14th. The appeal letter has been sent to the printer and will be mailed out within two to three weeks. The Foundation is accepting wine donations (approximately \$15 per bottle) for a wine pull at the event. The Bernards Inn will be providing hors d'oeuvres. The results of the Focus group: there were two groups held. The first group had 13 attendees and the second group had 4 attendees out of 45 invitees. The feedback was positive with few criticisms. The Foundation is looking for Ambassadors as part of the campaign, as well as hosts. They are in the process of rewriting the By-Laws for the endowment. The Foundation also decided to forgo the Christmas ornaments.

Correspondence

Maria was absent and there was no new correspondence to report.

Treasurer's Report

Bob stated it was a quiet month. There was \$2,600 incoming from matching gifts. Nancy asked if we can show restricted versus unrestricted on the reports. Bob stated the information is not received monthly, only on an annual basis (end of summer for time reference).

Library Report

Shura stated the library is preparing for Maker Day on March 19th and thanked the Friends for providing snacks. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone but especially young children. There will be science and art activities available to try. The newsletter was sent out. Shura thanked the Friends for the funds to print and mail the newsletter. The print version is important especially since most libraries only have the newsletter electronically. Also, a local resident and teacher at FDU started a programming club at the library which is attracting a lot of teens.

Community Outreach Committee

Debbie had no news to report. Nancy included some information she found on a web search in the agenda but has not discussed with committee yet.

Finance Committee

Jamie was absent. John stated that Jamie is working on the form for event profit and loss statements.

Fundraising Committee

Bingo was a success and will be monthly going forward. Upcoming Bingo dates are April 29, May 20 (commented this is same night as Sounds Around Town however overall agreed would be a good opportunity to attract new people), June 17, and July 15. Monthly goal to have sixty or more people netting a profit of \$1,000. The event will need six to seven volunteers each month and this should be shared throughout entire Board. Let Jen know when you can volunteer. More Bingo cards and daubers need to be purchased. Jen suggested a FB event be sent out and it was noted the bookmark ads are working.

The committee met this week to discuss the Fall Author Event. After some discussions and research on different ideas and venues it was agreed to move ahead with a Halloween themed event featuring renowned paranormal expert and author L'Aura Hladik and to hold the event at Bernards Inn on October 28th.

Nominating Committee

Shikha had nothing to report, however to begin succession planning.

Program Committee

Dan was not present and there was nothing new to report. The next event is May 1st - The Carnaby St. Duo.

Public Relations Committee

Caroline was not present and there was no news to report.

Volunteer Recognition

Sarah announced during Volunteer Week, we will hold the volunteer recognition luncheon (April 11th) at the library. Invites will be sent out shortly and there will be door prizes. The luncheon will be catered this year and there will be cake to recognize the library staff as well. Youth awards will be in June.

Public Comments

Leslie stated that she is investigating / looking into Consortiums with Shura. This would be an overall benefit to the library by providing interlibrary loans and other services.

Maria Myers is working on the online manual. Denis Dooley is working on the Homebound borrowing program and looks like this could work out after the right people are contacted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.