

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
January 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, John Bertoni, Caroline Browne, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Roni Larini, Shikha Mayer, and Laurie Och. Not in attendance were Deborah Heimerl, Dan Lincoln, Janet George Murnick, Maria Myers, and Nancy Verduin. Also in attendance were April Judge, Patrice O'Regan Cummings, and Cindy Feeley (of the Foundation).

President's Remarks and Notifications

Roni Larini wished everyone a Happy New Year, and welcomed Cindy Feeley, a returning Foundation board member. She explained that the Bernardsville Garden Club made a donation to the Friends because that group had used the Larini home for a meeting in November. Changes to the By-Laws will be incorporated and a new document issued. Roni passed around sign-up sheet for members to select committees on which to serve this year. Dan Lincoln will head an ad hoc committee to clean out the storage unit, which is currently costing the Friends \$700/year.

Approval of Minutes

John Bertoni moved to accept the Annual Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2014; Sarah Glazar seconded. The board approved unanimously. Elizabeth made a motion to approve the Reorganization Meeting Minutes of November 5, and John seconded. This motion passed without objection.

Vice President's Report

Nancy Verduin was not present. Roni said Nancy will head an ad hoc committee to review the student volunteer awards.

Correspondence

Maria Myers was not present.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker reported that the current fund drive campaign is very successful. We have 63 new donors, representing a 25% increase. He feels it's a good idea to buy a new mailing list every three years. Since September, \$38K has been raised. Though the two fundraising events last fall – Author Luncheon and High Tea – did not net as much money as the larger events of 2012 and 2013, he feels having events keeps the Friends in the public eye. He distributed his summary reports. The high-yield money market account is down because we used its monies to pay for the AWE computers. The gains from stocks and bonds are swept into cash; in 2014 that amount totaled \$13,780. The Friends gave the Library \$44,539 in 2014; we had budgeted \$45K. Bob noted that the credit card costs (for receiving donations online) have risen significantly. There was discussion to research other options or to piggyback with another entity. Bob also suggested promoting the credit card donation option in the next campaign letter. Bob made a motion to accept the financial report for the end of 2014, and Shikha Mayer seconded. The motion passed.

Library Director's Report

April Judge thanked the Friends for the \$44K in 2014. The Library is working on a second maker day. This one is part of a NJ State Library initiative to be held on Saturday, March 21. They are trying to get 10-15 makers presenting hands-on projects. A committee will select the next One Book Bernardsville. Youth Services is already preparing for the Summer Reading Program. Also, plans are underway to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the library building on February 27/28. April thanked the Friends for approving \$4K of the \$6,500 in the Special & Reference Books budget category for digital magazines from Flipster by Ebsco. The Library has purchased 30 subscriptions. This year is a test and usage will be tracked.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach - Debbie Heimerl was not present.

Finance - Doug Doremus met with April about the budget. Some line items have name changes. Special & Reference Books is now Print/Online Materials. Spanish Materials is now International Languages. AVA/CD/DVD is now Media. The Museum Pass Program was increased by \$500 and Undesignated decreased by the same amount. There are no bottom line changes. Doug made a motion to approve the 2015 budget as changed. Denis Dooley seconded, and all voted in favor.

Fundraising - Janet George Murnick was not present. Roni said that Nancy has done more research on bingo and would like to try it as a fundraiser.

Nominating - John Bertoni discussed the two openings on the board and noted that several people will be stepping down from the board come November.

Program - Shikha Mayer said December's Sundays at Three program with Gordon James & the History of Jazz was a good one. On February 22 a swing band is scheduled. The April 26 date has been changed to May 3 in order to sign up a Motown act.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne said the Ice Cream Social was included in the year-end recap section in the *Bernardsville New*, and noted that the Friends received good coverage in 2014. She requested suggestions for articles for this year.

Volunteer Recognition - Sarah Glazar thanked those who volunteered to prepare goody bags in December. She discussed changes we might consider making to the Volunteer Luncheon. The date, day, week? She welcomes the board's feedback.

Public Comments

Patrice Cummings told us that Valerie Zanardi has received a full, 5-year term on the BoT. The Mayor has appointed Michael dePoortere as his representative, though Mayor Kevin Sooy wants to attend the meetings. The budget has been submitted to the Borough. On January 24 the BoT will have its first retreat. Big decisions on the horizon include space repurposing and deciding whether or not to join a library consortium. Cindy Feeley said the Foundation had its meeting the night before, when its board said good-bye to three members and elections were held. The BLF achieved its 2014 budget goals. Little Brook Farm will be the site for this year's Home of Distinction fundraiser on Sunday, April 12.

Old Business

Denis Dooley asked for further clarification about the Library Journal's ratings. He was told the statistics for programs, attendance, circulation, etc. are compared to other libraries in the same budget category (\$1-4,9 million).

New Business

Denis said he had had a dream that the Friends printed durable folders with the Bernardsville Public Library logo on the front. Cindy said the Foundation has ordered car magnets.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary