

**Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
Bernardsville Public Library
February 21, 2012**

Attendance: Lucy Orfan was absent. Karen Brodsky, Executive Director, Bernardsville Public Library (BPL), Roni Larini, President, Friends of the BPL, Ed Landis, Secretary and a trustee of the Bernardsville Library Foundation, and Jerry Fischer, Treasurer and a trustee of the Foundation, were also present.

President Donald Burset called the Board of Trustees (“Board”) meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and read the Open Meeting Notice, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Terry Thompson called the roll. Mr. Burset asked the Foundation and Friends to speak next.

Public Participation: Mr. Landis, for the Foundation, mentioned that there would be a reception Sunday, February 26, at the library to recognize 2011 donors and introduce the Homes of Distinction event for 2012. He stated that there would be a general mailing to the public to solicit donations, and that the Foundation has not made a commitment to the library for 2012. He said that he understood that the library had provided two draft budgets to the Borough Council and that the Foundation would wait until the Council had acted before deciding on a gift. John La Duc said he was surprised at the Foundation position outlined by Mr. Landis, given that the Board had made a request to the Foundation in October, 2011, for \$81,000 of financial support during 2012. Mr. Burset noted that not only had the funding request been made last October, but that the Foundation had been asked for a response numerous times since October. Mr. La Duc said that it was unacceptable that the Foundation was only now advising the Board of the Foundation’s position and asked that the Foundation reconsider and provide a commitment, greater than that made in 2011, as the need is greater this year. He also suggested that the Foundation’s general mailing approach could be cutting into the Friends base of givers, which was inherent in the reliance on a mass mailing. Mike Gouldin said that he had understood that the Foundation would be targeting major donors, which would create less overlap with the Friends’ donor base, and that it was important to minimize the overlap between Friends and Foundation, that both had broad community support. Mr. Fischer agreed with that and said that the Friends, Foundation and Trustees should have a three-way meeting to try to work out differences. He also said that the Foundation could not make a firm financial commitment without knowing what their fund drive would produce.

Mrs. Larini, for the Friends, said that she was feeling good about the group and its new board. They have lost some donors, but did follow up with the largest former donors at the beginning of February and are getting some results there. She said the Friends will meet its commitment to the library this year, but is disappointed that the Foundation is doing another mass mailing because that is the Friends’ traditional way of raising money.

Treasurer’s Report, Bills and Finance Committee Report: John La Duc presented the Treasurer’s Report and the bills. Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, to pay the new bills received from February 1-21, 2012 and to ratify the payment of bills received and paid from January 18-31, 2012. Patrice Cummings seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. La Duc reported that he, Mr. Burset and Ms. Brodsky were

scheduled to meet with the Borough Council Finance Committee to discuss the library budget on Tuesday morning, February 28.

Personnel: At 6 pm Ms. Thompson moved to go into a brief Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. La Duc seconded the motion, which carried. Mrs. Larini and Messrs. Landis and Fischer left the meeting. At 6:07 pm the meeting returned to public session.

Committee Reports:

Finance: included with the Treasurer's Report.

Personnel: no public report.

Policy: no report.

Long-Range Planning: Mr Gouldin led the discussion of the draft Strategic Plan. He and Ms. Brodsky were the main drafters, but there has been input from the public and the staff. John . McCrossan commented that financial issues should not drive the plan, but that the plan needed to identify that resources are needed, and suggested modifying goal 7. Maribeth Southworth suggested spelling out the acronyms used, at least the first time. There was general agreement that the plan was well-done and would be useful.

Mr. Miller left the meeting at 6:47 pm. Mr. Gouldin moved the adoption of the plan with the proposed amendments. Mr. Buset seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Director's Report: Ms. Brodsky described the problems with setting up a flexible spending account plan, as required by state law. Mr. McCrossan suggested she review this issue with Ralph Maresca, which she will do. Mr. Buset moved to approve funding from the Conference Reserve for Ms. Brodsky's attendance at the Public Library Association Conference. Mr. La Duc seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The trustees concurred in the proposed addition to the position descriptions. Ms. Thompson moved that the Dell PowerEdge 2600 server is no longer needed for public service; Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion, which carried.

Communications: In addition to the thank-you letters included in the meeting materials, Ms. Brodsky highlighted our gratitude to Jim Droney, our technical manager, for the equipment shelving he presented to the library, enabling the storage of more equipment in the equipment closet. Mr. Buset reported that he and Mr. La Duc had met with Friends board members and also Foundation board members, and that the "State of the Library" had been provided to the Bernardsville News.

Minutes: Mrs. Cummings suggested one change; Ms. Thompson moved the adoption of the January meeting minutes as revised. Mr. La Duc seconded the motion, which carried.

Unfinished and New Business: The board reviewed and approved Mr. La Duc's draft statement regarding the solar panel issue.

There being no further business, at 7:45 p.m. Ms. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. La Duc seconded the motion, which carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry A. Thompson. Secretary