

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library, Inc.
January 30, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The Friends Board meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Roni Larini. In attendance were Mark Aronson, Steve Autenrieth, Bob Baker, John Bertoni, Karen Brodsky, Caroline Browne, Dorothy Carter, Denis Dooley, Doug Doremus, Elizabeth Faulkner, Sarah Glazar, Megan Hartley, Deborah Heimerl, Roni Larini, Dan Lincoln, Shikha Mayer, Janet George Murnick, and Nancy Verduin. (All were present.) Also in attendance were Patrice O'Regan Cummings and John La Duc of the Library Board of Trustees, and Jerry Fischer of the Library Foundation.

Approval of Minutes

John Bertoni made a motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes from November 2012 (Annual Meeting and Reorganization Meeting), and Megan Hartley seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Special Report - Review of Library's 2013 Budget

John La Duc, Treasurer of the Library Board of Trustees, passed out a copy of the report he presented to the Borough Council on November 26, 2012. He noted that Friends donations are not included in the budget. Donations to the Library in 2012, included \$40+K from the Friends, \$65K from the Foundation, and \$5K was received directly by the Library. He covered the Library's budget and funding trends, the borough's contributions over the past five years, and the 2013 preliminary budget of \$1,071K, an increase of \$33K. The Board of Trustees has asked for an additional \$35K from the Foundation for this year. The borough's budget will be out in February.

President's Remarks

Roni Larini welcomed "new and experienced" board members, and handed out committee assignments for 2013. She requested that committees try to meet before the March meeting. A tri-partite meeting was held the previous week with members of the Board of Trustees, the Library Foundation, and the Friends to establish fundraising schedules. The Friends will maintain its traditional fall fundraising timeframe, to include an October event and its fund drive letter in November. Jerry Fischer, President of the Foundation, wants both groups included in all PR materials. A public relations tri-partite meeting will be scheduled soon. Roni suggested the Friends sell its remaining note cards. Additional envelopes will be purchased, and then packets of five will be sold for \$5.

Correspondence

Debbie Heimerl sent a condolence card on behalf of the Friends to Caroline Browne, whose father passed away in early January.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Baker distributed three documents: Summary of 2012 YTD & 2011 Cash Flows, Summary of 12/31/12 and 12/31/2011 Net Assets, and 2012-2013 Campaign Statistics. He noted that credit card donations were high in December, especially the last day of the year. Also, the stock market did well. Of \$345K, \$100K is unrestricted and \$240K is restricted (Blumenschine Fund for capital improvements). Bob thanked Doug Doremus for purchasing a mailing list for the 2012 fund drive letter, which resulted in an increased number of donors, including several new ones

Library Director's Report

Karen Brodsky said fallout from Superstorm Sandy delayed several projects, most significantly, *Maker Space*. Also, it is now scaled back to one iMac to test its popularity. Library personnel are assessing how many books have gone missing because people took them during the power outage

and the Library's shelter functions. She reported that Friends money was used to purchase a computer catalog station, and the dog hitch is up and in use. There were no new funding requests.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mark Aronson passed out the FBPL 2013 Adjusted Budget - Income, Budget, and Notes for everyone to review. He commended Karen and her staff for being under budget by \$5,242 in 2012. After minimal discussion, Mark moved to adopt the adjusted 2013 budget as presented. Dan Lincoln seconded. All present voted in favor.

Fundraising - Doug Doremus described the mailing list he secured being based on income level and owning a home in Bernardsville. Of the 2,000 total, the Friends sent letters to 1,800. Instead of going out the week of the hurricane, it ended of being sent the beginning of December. Janet Murnick, the new chair, thanked Doug for his work. This year fundraising efforts will be focused during the months of September to December. The committee will meet in February to discuss an October event. Janet emphasized that the Friends will support the Foundation's efforts throughout the year.

Nominating - Elizabeth Faulkner thanked last year's committee for selecting four excellent, new board members. Next, she moved to elect John Berton as Nominating Committee chair; Janet seconded. All were in favor.

Program - Shikha Mayer reported on the success of the Sundays at Three concert on January 27, and thanked everyone for their assistance. The next program will be April 28.

Public Relations - Caroline Browne said she wrote about the Friends fund drive, and the sister organizations for the next newsletter. The committee will be working on a Friends brochure. The Friends will host another ice cream social at the end of this summer's reading program.

Volunteer Recognition - Sarah Glazar shared that there was a good turn out of board members for holiday goody bag stuffing in December. Feedback from recipients included requests for more loose cookies.

Public Comments

Patrice Cummings of the Board of Trustees mentioned that Donald Burset, BoT President, gave a beautiful recap in his State of the Library. She is glad for the tri-partite and publicity meetings, and appreciates the coordination Janet offered earlier. She noted that the Foundation went from \$0 to \$150,000 in a little less than two years. Jerry Fischer of the Library Foundation shared that he and his wife Fran go way back in their support of this library; including leadership stints with the Bernardsville Library Association, the predecessor of the Friends. At the next tri-partite meeting, he would like the two parties to work on publicity in the newsletter and gift recognition. The Foundation's Homes of Distinction event is set for May 19.

New Business

Karen suggested that a good article in the *Bernardsville News* might be useful. It can be based on an interview with her, and information from the three organizations. Roni asked Patrice to provide an electronic copy of the 2013 State of the Library, to be forwarded to Friends board members.

Mark moved, and Elizabeth seconded, to close the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Recording Secretary