

Annual General Meeting

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

October 25, 2018

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m.

There were 25 people in attendance. Cake was served.

Marilyn Manning spoke about upcoming programs. There are 30 programs taking place from September through June. In the immediate future, Alla Zernitskaya and her group will be here on November 20th. On November 27th, there will be a concert of Native American Music, and on December 4th, Greg Maichack will present an art instruction program.

Yoga will happen during the day in 2019. Vickie Donahue will be the board member in attendance.

Carol Maynard spoke about Friends' membership. The half-priced membership promotion at Friends of the Library week proved very successful. Many people upped to family membership. There are 906 total members, both new and renewals.

There are many booksellers enrolled.

If anyone has any ideas regarding "membership for kids", they should send them to Carol or Amy.

Nancy McNabb extolled the value of the merchandise that is sold at the book sales.

Ross Shuart reported that 1,000 copies of the Newsletter are printed. Amy commented on the excellent content of the last Newsletter. Suggestions for "revamping" the design of the Newsletter are welcomed.

James Arpante has been conducting our publicity business with the local media. He has hesitated with advertising in the Albany Times and Springfield Union because of the high costs. Suggestions are appreciated.

Alex Reczkowski greatly thanked the Friends for all they have done for the Library: (\$15,000 in this fiscal year) Among the projects were the bike book, “library of things”, 3,000 best sellers, and many children’s programs. Coming will be a new mural, leaf blower, snow blower, and a new logo. Also, after the first of the year a new website.

2017-2018 Budget	\$91,500.00
2017-2018 Expected Income	\$61,300.00
2017-2018 Actual Income	\$63,420.59 (103.6%)
2017-2018 Actual Expenses	\$71,844.69 (78.5%)
Current Assets	\$46,162.22 (as of 9-30-18)
2018-2019 Budget	\$104,100.00
2018-2019 Expected Income	\$67,600.00

Florian Ptak, acting treasurer, commented that all monies are spent on the library.

Nominated for the Executive Committee for the coming year were Ross Shuart – 3 years and Carol Messerschmitt, 3 years. There were no nominations from the floor. These nominations were approved.

The public service announcement aired on PCTV, starring Art Larsen, was aired.

The meeting closed at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Bresnehan