

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
Executive Committee
Minutes of the Meeting, December 13, 2018

Attendees:

James Arpante
Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Vickie Donahue
Marilyn Manning
Carol Messerschmitt
Florian Ptak
Ross Shuart
Alex Reczkowski

Amy called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The Minutes of November 15th were approved. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Assets as of November 30, 2018 are \$61,497.24.

President's Report:

The renewal fee for "United for Libraries" is \$80, and Amy will renew.

A thank you letter was received from Berkshire Children and Families thanking Marilyn Manning and the Friends for the donation of books.

Library Director's Report:

The January 4th Branding Launch has been postponed until the website is finished.

Andrea Puglisi's last day was December 14th. Alex Geller's last day is January 11th. Andrea has accepted a position in Longmeadow, MA, and Alex is headed for Arlington, VA.

A mural in the Children's Library of an illustration from Ty Allan Jackson's book, "When I Close My Eyes", will be installed and unveiled in January.

The Legislative Breakfast will take place on Friday, January 25th at 8 a.m. at Williams College.

Alex will work with Florian on the new Friends brochure, including the new branding.

Kanopy – Streaming video service to be on trial at the library and includes public viewing rights.

Membership:

There were three new members and 12 renewals for November. It was suggested that we send a reminder if a member misses a renewal date.

Programs:

Marilyn Manning has programs scheduled from January 8th until May. Yoga will take place the last Thursday of January at 1 pm for four weeks.

Book Sale:

Nancy McNabb thanks Carol Messerschmitt for recruiting Susan Luna, a new volunteer, who is working out very well.

Discussion centered around a Work Day in the garage. It was decided that a Work Day Committee was needed. More plans will be made, along with a date, at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Marilyn reported that along with the Berkshire Children and Families, books were donated to Little Libraries, South Congregational Church, and Sacred Heart.

Newsletter:

Ross reported that the Newsletter should be out by January 1st.

Publicity:

Jim Arpante has placed two ads in Upcountry Magazine for a total of \$299. He will be looking into "Coffee News", Albany Times Union, and Jewish Voice, along with other library publications.

Library Store:

Nancy McNabb left a box of Berkshire County authored books, which are now prominently displayed and for sale near the Circulation Desk.

It was suggested by Jim Arpante to have "giveaways" at our book sales.

New Business:

\$100 was appropriated for a memorial book in memory of Leslie Warren, the Feigenbaum Foundation's Executive Assistant.

Alex is taking care of the new tax-exempt certificates.

Alex will also take care of the request for a first aid kit in the sorting room. Winter health issues will be covered under the Library Wish List.

Old Business:

Discussion continued about changing our CDs to a more profitable rate. It was decided to wait until the next EC meeting before making a decision so that Alex can investigate the budget for any capital output.

The Friends' Brochure has been delayed until new branding.

Ross will check the files in Tech Services for past year's Friends' Minutes in order to facilitate the plaque for previous Friends' presidents and for records retention.

The next meeting will take place on January 10th, 2019 at 3 p.m. with a holiday gathering at Patrick's at 5 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan