

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

Executive Committee

Minutes of the Meeting, January 10, 2019

Attendees:

James Arpante
Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Marilyn Manning
Carol Messerschmitt
Florian Ptak
Alex Reczkowski
Ed Reilly
Bernie Scapin
Ross Shuart

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m. The Minutes of December 13, 2018 were approved with one change: The renewal fee for “United for Libraries” of \$80. was previously paid.

The Treasurer’s report was reviewed. The Friends’ total assets as of 12/31/18 are \$57, 189.12.

President’s Report:

A \$100 donation to the Athenaeum in memory of Katie Donahue was approved.

A thank you note with pictures was received from Mr. & Mrs. John Levesque for books donated to children in Camiguin, Philippines.

Bicentennial of Melville’s birthday is Thursday, August 1st. Plans are being made for the Literary Landmark sponsored by the American Library Association. There will be a schedule of events for the entire year. Also included will be an uninterrupted, marathon reading of “Moby Dick” on Friday, August 2nd until Sunday, August 4th. A team from the Friends will be assembled.

A \$100 donation to the Legislative Breakfast on Friday, January 25th was approved.

Library Director’s Report:

Alex spoke about the major message for the Legislative Breakfast at Williams College, which is to encourage construction and grant funding.

Some of the ongoing Library projects are the CPA grant, with which Herman Melville prints are being restored, along with HVAC system and history. The Children's Library Mural will happen February 11th.

The Library of Things to include retro video games.

The Library applied for a \$25,000 grant for an Everbright Board, which would be 8 feet long by 4 feet tall, which would be installed in the Main Reading Room if the grant were approved.

Alex reported that the City budget would be level serviced and level funded.

The "Enhancing Family Through Literature Court Program" will continue on March 11th.

Alex Geller stopped by to thank the Friends for their support, since his last day is January 11th. We wished him well in his new assignment in Arlington, Virginia.

Membership:

There were 12 renewals for the month.

Programs:

Marilyn Manning reported that there were 34 people who attended Dr. Vidich's meditation program.

On Tuesday, January 15th, James Arpante will speak on "An Overview of the Constitution."

The six-part Moby Dick Film Festival will begin Thursday at 6:30 p.m. with a 1926 silent film, with music, entitled, "The Sea Beast".

Marilyn also reported that we have been awarded three cultural county grants, which will defray costs for the April, September and November programs.

Yoga will begin January 31st at 1 p.m. for a one-month trial.

Ann Tierney's knitting class will begin the first Thursday in February through May 9th.

Book Sale:

Nancy McNabb distributed the objectives for the Wednesday, January 23rd Garage Cleanout Day. It was suggested to obtain a sign-up sheet for volunteers to more efficiently schedule the day.

Florian commented that there is an input/output problem. He has volunteered to take the VHS tapes to Good Will and also to investigate an organization which will take extra copies of books.

Newsletter:

Newsletter is out and Ross was complimented on its contents.

Publicity:

James Arpante reported that the "Upcountry" ad looks good and we are all set for the upcoming book sale. We will be skipping the May/June issue, saving \$300 by doing this. Our \$1000 advance for the Eagle Scavenger Hunt is being utilized for the March book sale advertising.

James is looking into other advertisers.

Library Store:

We discussed displaying "Berkshire Books" in a prominent place in the Library, rather than in the case. Alex will notify us sometime around school vacation when to get the books together.

New Business:

Much discussion was centered on Ross's inventory of the file cabinet containing old Friends' records. Thanks to Alex and Nancy, these records have been put in a safe place. Alex reported that the Library has scanners to digitally copy much of it on a "Team Drive". Ross is looking for guidance as to what should be retained. Thanks to Ross for this great effort.

Bernie Scapin was nominated as a member of the Executive Board, was approved for the Board and has accepted.

Old Business:

The First Aid Kit, in book sorter room, hand sanitizer stations, have been installed.

New tax-exempt certificates are forthcoming.

Florian is holding up on any new CD transfers.

Alex will be working on the art brochures for the Friends' brochure.

The Plaque for Friends is a work in progress pending records found in the file cabinet.

The meeting closed at 4:30.

There was a Holiday Gathering at Patrick's.

The next meeting will be February 14th at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan