

Minutes of the Meeting  
Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

June 8, 2017

In Attendance:

Florian Ptak  
Nancy McNabb  
Art & Sharon Larsen  
Alex Geller  
James Arpante  
Marilyn Manning  
Bob Bresnahan  
Ed Reilly  
Alex Reczkowski  
Amy Chin

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m.

The Minutes were approved with one correction: Our new Reference Librarian's name is Alex Geller, not Andrew Geller.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Alex R. has requested \$3,377 from the Wish List for books and materials, but this has already been approved. As of 5/31/17, there are \$51,961.55 in assets.

President's Report:

Amy attended the "Enhancing Family Through Literature" graduation. This is an eight-week, court-ordered program to help kids and their families become more compatible through reading. We have had a part in this in the past.

Amy also attended a welcome lunch for Alex Geller as the representative from the Friends.

Two Thank You notes were received: one from Jan Rogge from the Berkshire Family History Association for raffle gifts from the Library Store

and one from Jessica Greenbaum for selecting Vivian Dorset for this year's "People With Purpose Award".

Amy has condensed the "7 Tips for Donating Books" document into one page, with one correction: We use Cliff Notes, so these are welcome donations. We will include these tips in the Newsletter.

#### Library Director:

Alex R introduced Alex Geller, our new Reference Librarian. He has a very impressive background, and we wish him happiness in his new position in the Berkshires.

Madeline Kelly has requested \$80. for new plugs for the phone charging station. This was approved.

#### Membership:

- There were 19 new or renewal memberships

#### Programs:

- There were 32 adult programs during the year. There is one in July. There were also 30 knitting classes and 7 yoga classes.

#### Book Sale:

- Discussion ensued regarding information that needs to go on the poster.

There is a policeman scheduled for the first night.

There was a discussion regarding logistics for arrangement of chairs and parking. Permission is granted to park at the Whitney again.

Nancy related that there is a problem in the Friends' Room with air circulation. If the blowers are not on, it is very close in the room. Alex will talk to the City Maintenance Director.

### Newsletter:

– Ross is researching the past presidents for the plaque.

The deadline for the Newsletter is June 15.

### Publicity:

– James has arranged for extensive publicity in the Berkshire Landscape and Berkshire Week, before the Book Sale. We have an ad in the Family Fun Eagle supplement. The Board was impressed with the ad in the Eagle Summer Previews because of the standout color. We will use the small ads in the Eagle, as it gets closer to the sale.

There was discussion as to when to put up the outside banner. Florian suggested that the book sorters decide among themselves. He will put up the banner per the book sorters' directions.

It was suggested to have pizza after the set up day on Wednesday, July 12.

James suggested Certificates of Achievement for sorters.

### Library Store:

– The tee shirts produced from the contest have been created. They are in the storeroom, and will be advertised in the case by the children's library entrance. Also, they will be sold at the Book Sale, along with the book bags.

### Expenditure Subcommittee:

– The item for Friends' picnic was changed to a celebration of an enhanced area in the Library, i.e., the Reading Garden or a somewhat similar event.

### Sorters' Luncheon

– The luncheon will be Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, in the auditorium. Please RSVP Jeanne or Marilyn ASAP.

### Nominating Committee:

The following have been nominated and will be voted on in September:

Amy Chin – President  
Vickie Donahue – Vice President  
Bob Bresnahan – Treasurer  
Jeanne Bresnehan – Secretary

Ed Reilly and Florian Ptak – Executive Committee

The Annual General Meeting will be September 14<sup>th</sup>.

### New Business:

– The proposed cushions for the auditorium chairs for the store were not approved. However, either 125 or 250 historical magnets will be ordered from Elegant Stitches upon consultation with them. The board voted on a historical design.

### Budget Deliberations:

– It was realized that the budget should be approved before September in the future. However, for this year, budget requests should be submitted to the treasurer by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Old Business:

– Up to \$300 was approved for the Friends Brochure.

The book sale/donate day was shelved.

The Adult Program Calendar will be taken care of by the Library.

The meeting closed at 4:45.

The next meeting is September 14, 2017, the Annual General Meeting/Executive Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Bresnehan