

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
Minutes of the Executive Committee
March 15, 2018

Attendees:

James Arpante
Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Vickie Donahue
Art & Sharon Larsen
Marilyn Manning
Nancy McNabb
Florian Ptak
Alex Reczkowski
Ed Reilly

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m. The minutes of February 8th were approved with one change: Under "Programs" line 3, "Very Important Lecture" should read, "Very Interesting Lecture."

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The balance as of January 31st, 2018 was \$61,254.53. The balance as of February 28, 2018 was \$56,386.77.

President's Report:

We received a thank you note from Ed Jurczyk with a donation for the book sale. It was decided to dedicate a new Civil War book in his honor.

\$250. was approved to purchase passes for the zoo at Forest Park, Springfield.

Amy reminded the group of the May 10th Berkshire Family History event at the Country Club. The cost is \$10.

RSVP will be conducting a Recruitment Expo at the Senior Center on April 5th, from 1:30 to 3:30. The Friends will have a table.

Sarah Rohrwasser is the new volunteer recruiter. She has an email address: JointheFriends@PittsfieldLibrary.org

Children's Library Week is April 30th to May 6th.

A letter was received from Ken Roht concerning the Spring Arts Festival at Simons Rock. The notice will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

Amy suggested that we need membership cards. Florian to check the supply.

Amy will place an ad in the Newsletter requesting that patrons let us know if they would like to receive digital newsletters only.

Library Director's Report:

Coming up is an art show for children. It will coincide with the First Friday Art Exhibit. "Tuesday on the Terrace" will be another new event.

There will be local theatre exhibitions during Tuesdays in June which are intended for adults. The Mastheads Program will take place in July.

April 8th through April 13th is National Library Week. There will be events all week. Tuesday, April 10th, is Staff Appreciation Day. At that time the library will open at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 12th is "Drop Everything and

Read". Friday the 13th will feature a professional photographer doing "Green Scene" posters, similar to the "Read" posters that are displayed at the Library. On the 13th the presentation is for the Library Patrons of the Year.

The Friends are providing the food

.

Membership:

February produced two new memberships and five renewals. There were 43 new memberships in March and 10 renewals.

Programs:

Cinema of Law will resume. Last week's program had to be canceled because of inclement weather.

Book Sale:

The following are the figures:

\$7950.	Thursday
3531	Friday
4481	Saturday

Discussion ensued as to how to more effectively account for the cash proceeds from the sale. In reply to Nancy's request to keep carts in the hall, Alex said that the Fire Department forbids it. Marilyn suggested that we push carts out into the auditorium for sorting and then wheel them back again when we are through.

Florian offered that the collection of post cards has been sent to an auctioneer.

Newsletter:

Newsletter will go to print the last week in March. Patrons should receive it the first week in April.

Publicity:

James was complimented on the attractiveness and placement of ads.

Library Store:

A better system for accounting for merchandise sold will be planned if store materials are sold again at the next book sale.

New Business:

The PCTV PSA presentation will take place on Saturday, March 17th, at 9 a.m. Art Larsen will present.

It was suggested that the Membership table for next book sale be brought downstairs at 5 p.m. for safety. It was also suggested that we institute "greeters", along with posters upstairs by the membership table site to direct patrons to the book sale. Some mistakenly think that the lobby book sale is the only one.

The meeting closed at 4:30. The next meeting is Thursday, April 12th at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Bresnehan