

Minutes of the Meeting
Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
May 11, 2017

Attendees:

Bob Bresnahan
Florian Ptak
Ed Reilly
Alex Reczkowski
Marilyn Manning
James Arpante
Ross Shuart
Ed Jurczyk
Art and Sharon Larsen
Nancy McNabb
Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin

Amy opened the meeting at 3:05. Minutes were approved with one correction. The treasurer's report was reviewed. We have \$53,559.35 in assets.

President's Report:

The new Bidwell House pass was renewed for \$75.

Thank you notes were received from Ron Latham, Vickie Donahue, and Marsha Karlson. Ron's was for his portrait, Vicki, her plant, and Marsha for an extension of her Friends' Membership.

The PCTV \$50 group membership was approved.

Amy introduced an item from Envelope Super Store for credit card sleeves, which would be used to house library cards. The sleeves would be imprinted with Friends' information and would be used for approximately 500 new library cards and all renewals. A motion to buy 1,000 of them for \$154.49 was approved.

Library Director

The City parking officers have been responsive to our parking situation. They have been observed monitoring the library parking lot for vehicles not intending to use the library.

The City Maintenance Dept. will not be funding the water fountains. They will be funded by the Friends, and are already included on the Wish List.

The new reference librarian, Andrew Geller will begin work on May 25th. Since he hails from Nashville, Tennessee, up to \$250 "Culture Cash" to help him reach out to community was approved.

Membership:

Amy distributed a handout with membership statistics.

She will keep track of new and renewing memberships each month.

Alex received three match checks from GE for February.

Programs

There is one more program on the 18th and a few yoga events.

It was voted to award yoga instructor, Katy Fortier, a stipend of \$75 and \$150 for Ann Tierney, knitting instructor.

Programs will continue in early September.

Book Sale

The Book Sorters' Appreciation Luncheon – June 21st, at noon in the Auditorium.
Any new volunteer information should be furnished.

No decisions have been made on Good Will recycling. They come every other week. Good Will would like to emphasize that they do not take magazines. They should be put in the City "Herbie Curbies".

Nancy attended "Coffee with the President" (Berkshire Eagle). She furnished information on the books sales, and is hoping for an article.

After a discussion about the rules for the Thursday night book sale, it was decided to furnish the dealers with a copy of the rules each time.

Art Larsen brought up the need for help carrying books from the book sale to customer's cars.

Newsletter – June 1 – deadline

It will cover July through September.

Publicity

We will take out a quarter page ad in the Berkshire Eagle Summer Previews supplement for a cost of \$299. It was decided not to advertise in Up Country.

James will investigate the Albany Times Union and the Berkshire Magazine.

Expenditure Subcommittee:

A handout was furnished by Florian. The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide guidelines to the Executive Committee to make more efficient fund allocations. Florian would like comments/questions by email or at the next meeting.

An Event Calendar for adults was suggested, along with a prepared brochure of Friends' activities. The cost of the brochure, if adopted, would be approximately \$175 for 500 brochures.

New Business:

According to the bylaws three new committees are needed:

The first committee only (Finance Committee) consists of President, Treasurer and two at-large. The second and third committees are at-large members of Executive.

- Finance Committee members: Amy Chin, Bob Bresnahan, Ed Jurczyk, Ed Reilly
- Financial Oversight Committee members: Ross Shuart and James Arpante
- Nominating Committee members: Florian Ptak, Art and Sharon Larson

Landscaping.

Alex reported that landscaping will be a big item for the budget committee. It was decided to obtain multiple bids, and possibly use a small landscaper.

Amy printed out "7 Tips for Donating All Books Without Being a Jerk" and will post in the Library. It was suggested to include donation guidelines in the Newsletter.

There were 85 entries for the tee shirt contest.

The three judges were Vicki Donahue from Friends, Ann Marie Harris, from Staff, and Pam Knisley from Trustees..

There were three winners for the teen category and three winners for the children's category. The first place winner of the teen category will have his/her picture printed on an adult t-shirt, the first place winner of the children's category will have his/her picture printed on a kids t-shirt. All winners' drawings will be

displayed in the display case in the main library.

Senior real estate tax work off people may be able to help with research on the past presidents' plaque.

The meeting closed at 5 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 8th, at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan