

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes for 10 May 2018

Attendees: Ed Reilly, Amy Chin, Florian Ptak, Alex Reczkowski, Art Larsen, Sharon Larsen, Nancy McNabb, Marilyn Manning, Ross Stuart

Amy called the meeting to order at 1500.

The minutes were reviewed and accepted by motion after one minor amendment noting that Dawn Durant suggested the junior membership category.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Florian Ptak presented the treasurer's report. Bob Bresnehan has returned from Florida, but couldn't make it today. He noted that the \$1000 for the lobby book sale is for a three-month period. The library now has a pass for the Springfield Museum. The Berkshire Eagle refunded \$245 from their last bill after Jim Arpante spoke with them.

President's Report

Amy gave the president's report. A few more survey results from the last newsletter have been received. Newsletters will be sent out for two years following a lapse in membership. We received a very appreciative note from and signed by the entire staff of the Berkshire Athenaeum thanking the Friends for their sponsorship of the recent Professional Development Day.

Director's Report

Alex gave the library director's report. The Friends' computer died. Becky replaced it with one that was on hand, but something better is needed. In response to a previous question, the tote-bags are from Vistaprint. The public service announcement narrated by Art will be posted on YouTube. One wish list item was for a \$10K website upgrade. The library is looking for a consultant to help with this. The library of things is growing, for example the ukuleles used in the recent lessons.

Shake Your Soul programming is in work. On the first Third Thursday we will be out with the Book Bike, then at the Farmer's Market on Saturday. Taconic High School asked about library books they are discarding. Alex suggested Goodwill. On June 11, we will be hosting the middle school spelling bee. We now have a large format printer on the main floor.

Membership

There were 37 new members and 18 renewals in March, with 2 new members and 18 renewals in April. Carol Maynard, Dawn Durant, Sara Rohrwasser (our volunteer recruiter) and Sam Cesareo are

discussing junior memberships. Sara has 11 potential recruits, who should contact Nancy for orientation.

Programs

There are three programs remaining for the current season: May 21, May 31 and June 12. The last of these is a rescheduling of the Berkshire Hills Chorus. The children's programs include ukulele lessons. We need someone to organize a parallel program for adults if we are going to do this during the summer. If nobody is found we will set it up in the fall. This would be a pre-registration class. The consensus was that Marilyn should coordinate it in the fall. Shake Your Soul has been scheduled for next spring.

Book Sale

Nancy thanked Florian and Jan for getting the Blantyre collection in. The Lenox Library couldn't come and pick it up. There are about 35 to 40 boxes. Betty Lou is cleaning these items and a lot of them will be special priced. It would be nice if staff could occasionally stop by to see what we sell.

It is very difficult to bring more stock in from the garage during the book sale; it is not clear that we have a solution for this. It would be nice to have more library carts for the book sale, but it's not clear where they would fit. Bob and Bernie will be the book sale treasurers. We don;t need any intraday totals.

We need a Newsletter article on book donations and the need to not stack them, books are frequently damaged by this. Amy has a picture to use.

Newsletter

Inputs for the July 1 issue are needed by June 1.

Publicity

It was noted that we have an ad in the Up Country magazine.

New Business

Marilyn notes that we will revisit the subject of contacting teachers in the fall. We've done this to get the benefit of student groups' community service projects by volunteering with the book sale, and possibly getting them interested in becoming Friends Members (hence junior membership).

The junior membership committee will be meeting soon; see above.

We have a June meeting and need to have the 2018-19 budget for discussion at that meeting. Amy will contact Bob for this.

The Nominations Committee needs to determine whose terms are expiring. The Annual General

Meeting will be scheduled to coincide with Library Friends Week, about October 14 to 20. This should receive a notice in the next Newsletter. This year we would like to start planning for Friends Week earlier. A meeting was tentatively scheduled with Sharon, Marilyn and Art for the third week in July.

Old Business

Regarding Friends Week, see the note above.

Friends brochure quotes, somewhat old now, are Berkshire Print Shop, \$272 for 250, \$480 for 500; Courier, 70 cents each; Miller, \$135 for 250, \$175 for 500. We should wait for the new library phones to be installed.

Presidents' Plaque has been on hold for months. The early Friends records are still missing and may have been lost when the boiler upgrade was done. Current records retention needs discussion. Many of the recent records are available in electronic form. It should be easy to back these up with a cloud provider as well as locally.

Other Business

It is noted that the book sorter lunches are appreciated. The \$515 was a good investment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

Submitted, Ross Stuart