

Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

November 9, 2017

In attendance:

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

Amy opened the meeting at 3 p.m. The AGM Minutes of October 19th were approved with the following correction: Our assets of \$60,157.99 were as of 6/30/17, not 8/31/17. The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October 19th were approved with the following correction: under Book Sale, the second paragraph, should read “Probation Department”, not “Probate Court people”.

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. The November Book Sale totaled \$15,872.25. Membership from the Book Sale was \$615.

President’s Report:

Amy thanked everyone who helped with the successful book sale. She also commented that Madeline Kelly also complimented the good value of the books at the sale.

\$338. was appropriated for a dock and chip reader for our two iPad's used at the book sale. The purpose of this purchase is to make it easier for credit card sales at the book sales using the Square readers.

Amy proposed a new volunteer position. The volunteer recruiter would be responsible for gathering names from all sources, and finding out what their interests are, as well as when they would be available. The volunteer recruiter would co-ordinate this information with Nancy McNabb.

\$80 was allocated to join as Friends' Members of United For Libraries.

Library Director:

Alex also wished to thank the Friends for the great book sale.

Alex was also pleased about the Halloween Programs, along with the Seed Lending Program. Hancock Shaker Village is interested in being involved with the seed program. Other popular programs were the jazz events, Alla Zernitskaya's concert, and the 3-D printing.

Wish List items that have been realized are the new microwave, the mural in the Children's Department, laminating machine, and the special "book bike".

The Berkshire Library Legislative Breakfast will take place Friday, January 26, 2018 at the North Adams Library. \$100 was appropriated for this event.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

There were 20 new members and 32 renewals. 26 of the 52 total were from the ½ price sale, as some of the ½ price members were new members and some were renewals.

Programs:

There are 4 left this year. Dates for the Very Interesting Lectures by Florian and James will be set after the first of the year, along with Paul Rocheleau's program.

Book Sale:

Nancy is concerned about safety in the garage because of the way cartons are stacked. There was much discussion regarding the flow of book donations.

Newsletter:

The deadline is December 1st. The new volunteer recruiter position was recommended to be included in this issue.

Publicity:

James is still negotiating with The Eagle to try and get restitution for a botched ad in "Up Country" supplement. He is planning on a Thanksgiving "thank you ad" in The Eagle.

Library Store:

Jeanne will look into specific prices for the metallic bookmark and order more of the larger magnets.

New Business:

It was decided to investigate putting the print by Sharon Carlo into the "Library of Things".

A Volunteer Recognition dinner was planned to take place after the March book sale.

It was decided to fund a tree for the Museum's Festival. The vote was 5 to 4 with 1 member abstaining.

We will dispose of the plastic trees in the auditorium.

The Old Business was tabled.

The meeting ended at 5 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 14 at 3 p.m. After the meeting we will adjourn for a Holiday gathering at Patrick's.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Bresnehan