

Minutes of the Meeting
Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum
Executive Committee
November 15, 2018

Attendees:

Jeanne Bresnehan
Amy Chin
Vicki Donahue
Marilyn Manning
Nancy McNabb
Carol Messerschmitt
Florian Ptak
Alex Reczkowski

Amy called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. The minutes of October 25th were approved. The treasurer's report was reviewed. As of 10/31/18, we have \$44,715.35 in assets.

President's Report:

Amy and Alex would like to thank everyone who helped with the book sale.

It was decided to renew the Forest Park, Springfield, pass for \$250, which admits up to five people.

Discussion ensued regarding preliminary and final numbers for the book sale. We need to wait for the official number from the bank before publishing the figures, which may take a week.

Library Director's Report:

Alex introduced Joanne Murphy, who is the new Administrator of the Library, replacing Luciano Silva.

Andrea Puglisi will be leaving the library on December 14th for a library position in Longmeadow, MA.

Alex related that the City's first class of Citizens' Academy (about 20 Pittsfield residents learning about all the City Departments) was recognized with a small celebration with a cake. They were impressed with what the library has to offer and appreciated the cake provided by the Friends.

An envelope of cash was found inside of a donated book, was reported to the Police Department. According to their policy, the cash was held for a year. Since no one claimed it, the money was donated to the library.

On Friday, January 4th, at 5 p.m. the library staff will be holding a demonstration to celebrate their new branding, along with new items for the library store.

Membership Report:

39 renewals and 53 new members were received from the book sale. The membership table on the other side of the library, suggested by Kate O'Brien proved to be a great success.

Programs:

There are programs scheduled for Spring: James Arpante is considering doing a lecture. Andrew Vidich will participate in a meditation program.

Yoga will begin in January at 1 p.m.

There will be an Arrowhead Melville Film Festival. They will take care of all expenses.

A ukulele band will perform on a Saturday.

The March Cinema of Law will happen.

In April there will be an art lesson. There will be a program featuring healthy, sweet treats with samples! "Shake Your Soul" exercise program will be presented.

In May, a photography presentation on New England owls will take place. There will also be a program on the growth of trees.

Book Sale:

Nancy passed out book sale money procedures. She also wanted to reiterate that every person entering the sale on Thursday night should have a pink, laminated pass. A family membership does not justify a blanket pass.

It was voted to grant James Arpante a lifetime Friends' membership for his tenacious publicity efforts.

Thank you notes will be sent to Soldier On (Matt and Mike) and the Probation Department for their superb job in helping with the book sale.

Nancy also asked for more clean up help after the sale, along with more cashiers.

Florian has volunteered to help clear the stage by November 20th.

Newsletter:

December 1st deadline.

Publicity:

There are plans to expand the lawn sign concept.

Library Store:

Nancy will bring books to be placed in the library store to the next executive committee meeting.

New Business:

It was voted to donate \$100. for a memorial book for Ann Levine (Jonathan Levine's mother) who passed away last week. Alex will take care of the arrangements.

The Friends have a direct line in the census room. The number is 499-9493. The email is friends@pittsfieldlibrary.org. It was decided to leave the main library number as is on the book marks.

The interim treasurer is looking into moving the C/D's to a more profitable arrangement.

It was suggested that Ron Latham's portrait in the conference room be rehung.

Old Business:

It was decided not to purchase the upgraded square machine, since the two we have performed ok at the November sale.

Amy is working on the Literary Landmark project, which is due by April.

The Friends' brochure, plaque for Friends' presidents, and record retention are ongoing.

The next meeting will be December 13th at 3 p.m. It was decided to hold a holiday gathering at Patrick's at the January 10th meeting.

The meeting closed at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Bresnehan