

# Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum

## Minutes of the Meeting

September 14, 2017

### Attendees:

Amy Chin  
Bob Bresnahan  
Ed Reilly  
Jeanne Bresnehan  
Marilyn Manning  
Ed Jurczyk  
Kate Berch  
Art and Sharon Larsen  
Vicki Donahue  
Nancy McNabb  
Florian Ptak  
Alex Geller

Amy opened the meeting at 3 pm. The Minutes of June 8<sup>th</sup> were approved. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and the 2017 - 2018 Budget for \$90,500 was approved.

### President's Report:

Amy commented that the budget should have been approved by June 30 of this year, as recommended by the Budget Committee.

\$100 was approved for a gift certificate for Nan Pearson on the occasion of her retirement.

Two thank you notes were received: one from Nan Pearson and the other from Marilyn Manning.

Amy distributed a handout noting the 2016 - 2017 museum pass usage. It was gratifying to see how the public was using the passes.

She noted that it was National Library Card Sign Up Month. There are water bottles left over from the tee shirt promotion and they will be offered for sale at \$1.25 and a few placed in the case.

### Membership:

We have received 7 new members as a result of the library Bingo contest.

The membership tally for the summer is as follows:

June – 26, July - 124, August – 8.

Amy commented that we are using too many stamps for membership renewals. We are sending out an average of 30 per month and about 20 confirmation letters. We should consider an email renewal—either PayPal/Square online payment or pay by check at Library. A postcard would double as a confirmation letter and membership card. There would definitely be a paper option.

### Programs:

Marilyn commented that Dr. Vidich will be conducting meditation sessions this week, and that there will be 12 more opportunities to enjoy programs between now and mid December. She is working on Winter/Spring programs with Andrea Puglisi assisting.

### Book Sale:

Nancy commented that more help is needed, especially with the massive St. Joe donation of books.

### Publicity:

There is a lull in publicity activity at the present time. James did note that since the Eagle made a mistake with one of our ads, we would be compensated with a major ad in an upcoming periodical.

### Library Store:

There was discussion about donating the leftover children's tee shirts, but it was decided to hang on to them until we can find out which agency can use them.

### New Business:

Florian agreed to research an ionizer for use in the Friends' book room. The air flow system is turned off at night and the room gets very stuffy.

Nancy would like a new hire, two days a week, to carry boxes for the sorters. She suggested the Senior program initiated by Elder Services. However, the discussion was centered around whom the person would report to and insurance liability.

Florian agreed to be the book sale treasurer.

The National Friends of Libraries Week is Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. The Friends' Library Week Planning Committee, consisting of Marilyn, Florian, Vicki and Sharon, will meet Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. to explore ways to raise awareness of the week.

Alex Geller distributed a handout on a proposal for a "Seed Lending Library". This would be funded by \$2,000 from our wish list of "Library of Things", which has already been budgeted. He writes that at least three neighborhoods are "food deserts", without ready access to healthy and affordable food. He is applying for grants, and has planned many promotions.

Ideas were tossed about to increase membership in the Friends, one of which was a Friends' Sponsored Family Day on the idea of the Clark Art Institute, which would take place in the summer.

The Annual General Meeting will take place Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m., followed by an Executive Committee meeting at 3:30. Amy will send out notices for the AGM to comply with the thirty-day rule.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Bresnehan