

Board of the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library

Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Members Present: Mary Bowler, Natalie Burke, Kate Cummings, Paula Evans, Angela Holodick, Agnes Galvin, Martha Gessler, Richard James, Michelle-Masitis Mooney, Lynne Rosa,

Members Absent: Kay Bowes, Clare Kantar

Also present: Jean Kaufman, library manager

Welcome and Announcements

Lynne Rosa (president) opened the meeting with a review of the accomplishments of the previous year. She noted that the constitution has been amended, the membership revitalized and several programs presented. The board has been divided into teams to facilitate efficiency. Each team needs to come up with ideas and an action plan for 2015. There were many suggestions made last year that could not be accomplished in the time available. Accordingly, Ms. Rosa proposed that we should plan on developing two or three of those ideas as major projects for this year.

Approval of Minutes

The November and December 2014 minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report See attached sheet

Library Manager's Report

Jean Kauffman announced that the library staff are running a winter reading program at present and also have completed planning the children's summer programming for 2015. She circulated a memo in which the librarians on the Summer Reading Team thank the Friends for the incentives already purchased from the vendor Upstart. The memo notes also that some changes have been made to the Summer Reading Program. Most importantly, the weekly prizes will be discontinued and a new system of incentives introduced:

- 10 hours of reading- free book and certificate
- 30 hours of reading- the choice of a free book or tote bag
- 50 hours of reading-free book and raffle ticket

It is also hoped to provide premium grand prizes, e.g. one-year membership to Delaware Children's Museum, Kindle, iPad, Beats Headphones, etc. in addition to the traditional bag of books, at each of the five raffle levels. Last year at BHL 535 children and teens read over 30 hours while 244 read 50 hours or more. Based on these figures, we can estimate needing about 500 additional book prizes with an estimated cost of \$5.00 per book. The Teen Volunteer Thank You Party is also in need of funding.

Ms. Kauffman requested the Friends' help with book purchases and also with funding another STEM program from Tech Stars which was extremely popular last year. This year's focus will be on Lego's Minecraft EDU software. Also planned are a teen writing workshop, and two art programs with Todd Miyashiro, a wonderful artist, who is employed by the county and ineligible for compensation through the library's regular program channels.

Four of the 2nd Annual "Music on the Lawn" summer concerts have already been scheduled and musicians booked. These are:

- June 17-Diamond State Concert Band (show tunes, marches)
- June 24-Newark Community Band (classical)
- July 1-Seven Rings (Irish folk music)
- July 8-Basodee (Caribbean /Jazz Quartet)

Ms. Kauffman requested that the Friends' sponsor the concerts planned for July 15th and 22nd next year. This was agreed, and some possible bands were mentioned. Mary Bowler will make enquiries. Also ice-cream or some other treat will be provided at the final concert. Michelle Masitis moved and Kate Cummings seconded a motion to support the library summer programming up to a maximum of \$10,000 dollars.

Communications Team Report

Since John Stevenson, the former webmaster, has resigned from the board, Ms. Rosa volunteered to take on the role herself as no other board member felt qualified for the task. She plans to meet with Mr. Stevenson to plan the changeover and is considering paying a qualified person to set up a new more user-friendly website and possibly also to take charge of running the website. The website will be updated and made more user-friendly. After it is set up, the Friends should plan to post more material on it on a regular basis.

Membership Committee Report

Richard James reported that he will compile a short footnote to be added to library posters and flyers to ensure the Friends' receive public recognition for their sponsored events.

Ms. Rosa suggested that the board committees should reach out to the membership for help at Friends' functions in order to encourage more involvement by non-board members.

Also, Mr. James informed the board that we do not need to write a letter of protest to the Appoquinimink School District as they have decided not to introduce a rating system for books. This system would have been a form of censorship in the opinion of the Friends'.

Mr. James would like to take one of the vacant Friends' seats on the LARB as this organization has a considerable influence on library decision making.

Program Team Report

Martha Gessler reported that the Peacekeepers' presentation is scheduled for January 28th and she will confirm that Pacem in Terris will also send representatives. There will be time for questions at the end of the meeting and Ms. Bowler offered to provide refreshments. Kate Cummings has contacted a friend who works for the News Journal to try to get a reporter to attend the meeting.

Ms. Gessler has discussed with Opera Delaware the possibility of scheduling a presentation at the library in late April. The program could include soloists singing not only opera arias but also show tunes and the screening of a film clip of one of their operas. This combination might attract a wider audience. The Program Room would be needed and Sunday afternoon might be a good time slot.

The team would like input regarding possibilities for youth or child related activities this summer.

Also, Ms. Gessler asked if the board would like to schedule Dr. Russ or other eloquent University of Delaware professor to give a talk on an interesting topic in the fall. Dr. Russ is an excellent speaker and an expert on Delaware history. With good publicity, we should be able to attract a substantial audience. Board members suggested perhaps the professor could incorporate a popular draw such as a ghost into his presentation, if appropriate. Perhaps, costumes or a reenactment could be included to add a visual element.

Team members met with Ms. Kauffman and Greta White in the library at 6:15 PM this evening to exchange information about Friends' programs. This proved to be valuable as some

miscommunications were discovered and cleared up. The same group will continue to meet at 6:15 on the 2nd Tuesday for the next few months.

Advocacy Report

Kay Bowes was not present at the meeting due to illness. Ms. Rosa asked if any board member was able to accompany Ms. Bowes to daytime meetings in Dover. Angela Holodick said that she would do so and would also join the Advocacy team.

Ms. Rosa announced that she will miss the board meetings in March, April and May because of an extended trip to Europe. Mr. James will take over in her absence. Ms. Rosa made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10, at 7PM in the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Agnes M. Galvin