

Board of the Friends of Brandywine Hundred Library

Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Members Present: Mary Bowler, Kay Bowes, Natalie Burke, Paula Evans, Agnes Galvin, Martha Gessler, Angela Holodick, Claire Kantar, Michelle-Masitis Mooney, Lynne Rosa

Members Absent: Richard James

Also present: Elle Van Dahlgren Esquire, Jim Conrad, Jean Kaufman (library manager)

Welcome and Announcements

- As Mary Bowler was delayed, Lynne Rosa asked board members for outstanding receipts.
- Martha Gessler needed \$95.00 for the final payment for the Zoo Visit scheduled for Wed, Nov. 18, at 4:30.
- Board members were reminded, if planning events, to fill out the program form for Ms. Gessler
- Claire Kantar asked if the missing materials from the Friends' room had been found. Ms. Rosa replied that they had not.

Approval of Minutes:

The October Minutes were approved with two corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

Mary Bowler will sent it out later.

Library Manager's Report:

- Jean Kaufman stated that the library held a writing conference for 52 participants who attended 3-6 workshops.
- The Iron Hill Museum presented a successful program on owl pellets: attendees dissected the pellets and examined the contents.
- Crazy Eights Math Club meets with Bernadette Davis.
Children learn math skills while running and jumping around. Over 20 children, aged 4-7, attend each week.

- Patrons enjoyed a live-web chat with the Kennedy Space Center.
- The 30th anniversary of *Back to the Future* was celebrated with a program examining correct and incorrect predictions in the movie.
- The *Room on the Broom* program is not just a story, but also teaches family values.
- The Liberators presented a movie about Delaware soldiers who entered Nazi Germany.

Advocacy Group

Kay Bowes reported that:

- Delaware libraries received an innovation award for expanding 3D printing to many of its libraries.
- Author Neil Gaiman gave The Reading Agency Lecture this year.

Program Committee: Martha Gessler

- Wilmington Zoo will present a program about animals and how to care for them on Wed. November 18, for children aged 7 and up.
- Alan Levin (of Happy Harry's) is no longer part of the state government and would be an excellent speaker
- We should support the summer band program again this year and make sure we are recognized in the library publicity.

Garden Project

- Ms. Rosa proposed that the garden project should be put on hold and not tied to a contractual deadline. As about half of the board members have voiced their objections to the project, there will be no fundraising campaign at present.
- Claire Kantar commented regretfully that she had spent countless hours this year organizing this project.
- **The board passed a resolution to defer the final decision on the garden project indefinitely, and also to have Henry continue working in his current capacity.**
- Board members commented that the current garden now looks much better with the dead trees and bushes removed.
- Ms. Bowes reminded that board that the bare ground beside the staff entrance should receive attention.
- Ms. Kaufman added that the water main problem is now fixed.

Membership Drive

- Ms. Rosa said she did not have figures on on-line membership, but the library drive numbers were down to about half of last years.

- She suggested a survey to reach out to membership for their ideas and suggestions.
- Several possible reasons for the decline were suggested:
 - Discontinuation of the periodic newsletter mailing to members may have discouraged some members from continuing.
 - Three-hour shifts from 12-3 may be too long for volunteers; also an hour of fundraising was lost at night
 - Substituting seed packets for apples as a membership gift was not popular.
 - E-mail blast was sent to membership, but some people did not receive one
 - No membership list was available at the table in the library
 - There was no personal phone contact with volunteers as in former years.
- It was suggested we develop a survey to help board members understand what the membership wants.

Election of New Board Members

- As Ms. Rosa is retiring as president, board members were asked to run for president at the December meeting, but no one felt able to do so.
- Ms. Bowler volunteered, with Ms. Bowes help, to take over until March to allow enough time to find a new president.
- The Annual General Meeting will be postponed until March
- Members whose terms were expiring were asked to continue till March.
- Elle Van Dahlgren Esquire, who has attended the last three meetings, was unanimously elected to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Members gathered to thank Ms. Rosa for her excellent leadership of the board.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, at 7 PM in the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Agnes M. Galvin

