

Board of the Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library

Minutes of the meeting held July 8, 2014

Members Present: Kay Bowes, Natalee Burke, Agnes Galvin, Martha Gessler, Richard James, Claire Kantar, Michelle-Masitis Mooney, John Stevenson

Members Absent: Lynne Rosa, Helen Butler

Also Present: Jean Kaufman Library manager

Welcome and Announcements

As Lynne Rosa was unable to attend, Claire Kantar (vice-president) ran the meeting. She welcomed everyone and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Bowler passed out the Treasurer's update sheet (attached.) She explained that the amount from the books sold at the last author's event is not included; however, the Friends will receive the customary rebate which will be listed in next month's report.

Librarian's Report:

Jean Kaufman reported that:

- Four sessions of Tech Stars have taken place, with 15-18 children per session. About 1/3 are new sign ups and 2/3 are repeaters. The program has not been full yet, so no one has been turned away. *Basics to Building* is the beginning program for the younger children. The *Video Animations Program* features a review of *Basics to Building*, followed by a transition to writing a computer story and creating a magical eBook. The young attendees, aged 9-12, wrote text balloons, created a sprite and wrote a program to enable the sprite to talk in the text balloons.
- The concerts went well. The second one was indoors with lower attendance. Ms. Kaufman would like to have a big splash at the final concert on July 30 with ice-cream, face painting and bubbles. As local companies demand a minimum dollar amount for providing an ice cream truck, Mary Bowler recommended we provide a big cooler of ice cream which can be easily scooped out. This will be much less costly. The library is contacting local organizations to invite them to set up tables during this concert. Some, such as the Brandywine Garden club and the Music School of Delaware, have already agreed to participate. Other suggestions from board members were: the Delaware Art Museum, Delaware Children's Museum, the Delaware Historical Society and the Museum of Natural History. In addition, the library will feature a science table. The Friends' will provide ice cream and face painters.

Communications Team Report

- John Stevenson reported he had talked to a man contacted by CharityAdvantage. This person is running a small business in Colorado which interprets Benjamin Franklin for the public. Mr. Stevenson learned that dealing with small non-profits requires due diligence to make sure tasks are done correctly and with a particular vendor doing the work.
- He has updated our web page with our new mailbox address, directions on how to contact us, and a new membership form.
- The LIS Host check has been sent out. Mr. Stevenson commented that the original developer of the web site worked for a small fee,

Membership Team Report

- Richard James reported that the schedule for the membership drive is ready to be sent out.
- We will use *Sign Up Genius* for staffing the table.

Program Team Report:

- Martha Gessler reported that the topic of Dr. Russ's talk scheduled for November 5, will be "*The Impact of Philanthropists on Early 20th Century Delaware.*" It will deal mainly with the DuPonts and the Bancrofts.
- Don Miller, a paleontologist, has agreed to talk about fossils. This program will be scheduled during the winter months.
- Ms Gessler planned to withdraw her suggestion of the Peacekeeper Program, discussed last month, as a small poll of library patrons showed a lack of interest. However, the majority of board members wished to schedule the program as a way of learning more about problems in the city and how they can be addressed. Ms. Kantar was concerned about religion entering the discussion, but Ms Gessler thinks this will not be an issue.
- The Staff Appreciation Luncheon, with 40 guests expected, is scheduled for September 4th.
- It was agreed that only one person is needed at the Friends' table for the upcoming concerts. Ms Kantar volunteered for the concert on July 9, Martha Gessler July 16, Kay Bowes July 23.

Old Business

Membership Picnic Status

The Membership picnic is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, as a kickoff to the Membership Drive. Details will be discussed and presented at a later date.

Gardening and Grounds Issues

As there have been some recent complaints about the state of the flower garden in front of the library, Ms Cantor scheduled a walk outside, during the meeting, to view the gardens and discuss observations and suggestions, Ms. Kaufman was asked to show us who is responsible for each area of the garden and the location of any sprinklers. She also told us that the County provides mulch each year for weed control and also cuts the grass, but has no budget available for flowers.

During the walk, the board observed several problems with the garden. There were a few dead plantings next to the sidewalk sprinklers. We wondered if the sprinklers are adequate. Some bushes and trees have become entangled. Weeds are growing in mulched beds in the parking lot as well as in the flower

beds. The bed outside the staff entrance is in particularly bad shape. Mr. James offered to consult with a friend who is a horticulturist at Chanticleer. He also raised the question of financial responsibility for the garden and whether the Friends want to undertake it for the long term. The availability of master gardeners affiliated with the University of Delaware was also raised. Also, we would like to access a copy of the original garden plan from Jim Conrad or Henry. Agnes Galvin agreed to phone Jim Conrad and ask him for information on the garden. Ms Kaufman informed us that Woodlawn library garden is maintained by the Friends who planted bulbs and also planted a summer garden. The board agreed to meet again in August to plan the Membership Picnic.

Advocacy Report

Kay Bowes announced that we would like to have local dignitaries and also county executives, if available, attend a signing of the *Declaration of the Right to Libraries*. There will be more information on this at the next meeting. Also the ALA website will emphasize the need for libraries.

Reminder

Ms Kantar reminded the board to send any comments on the bylaws to Ms. Rosa. The vote on the updated Constitution and Bylaws will take place at the annual meeting.

Ms. Gessler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. James at 8:50 PM

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 7 PM in the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Agnes M. Galvin