

## **Board of Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday, June 9, 2015**

**Members' Present:** Mary Bowler, Kay Bowes, Natalee Burke, Agnes Galvin, Paula Evens, Martha Gessler, Richard James, Claire Kantar, Michelle Masitis Mooney, Lynne Rosa.

**Members Absent:** Kate Cummings, Angela Holodick.

**Also Present:** Jean Kaufman, library manager, Jim Conrad, former board chairman

**Welcome and Announcements:** Lynne Rosa was welcomed back after her European trip.

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Rosa announced that Claire Kantar (Garden Group chair) had invited Dan Benarcik, a professional landscaper, to share his plan for the library garden with us.

Mr. Benarcik had prepared a map of his plan and a slide show. The slides displayed the plants he had chosen, accompanied by his commentary on them. He also distributed a list of the plants and his reasons for choosing them. (See attached sheet.)

- His goal is to increase bi-diversity and move forward using native (pre-Columbian) plants.
- His plan would include plants of interest in all seasons.
- Features would include reuse of existing materials, wildlife way stations, and matrix or self-sustaining plantings.
- The finished work would reconnect the library with the Delaware landscape through the use of regionally appropriate plants.
- Discussion followed with board members being especially concerned about the cost and size of the project.
- The board has money available, but members disagreed as to whether the garden was the best use of our funds.
- Mary Bowler sees a huge need for help in the city and would prefer to direct our efforts there.
- Jean Kaufman commented that the library is in need of tutors who could help lower-income children.
- Ms. Kaufman sees the project as a way of increasing the number of library patrons, providing timely education for them, and generating greater appreciation of the library.
- Ms. Rosa wondered if an herb garden could be part of the project and used to educate children about cooking with herbs.
- Ms. Kantar said that a staff member at the Horticultural Society was pricing Mr. Benarcik's list of plants, enabling the board to make an informed decision.
- Agnes Galvin reiterated that grants are available for such projects, and she would be willing to write a grant application after consulting with the Horticultural Society.
- It was decided to find out the total cost of the project before making any decisions.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved with four corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** See attached sheet.

### **Library Manager's Report**

- Ms. Kaufman reported that the outdoor concert series will start on June 17, at 6:30 PM.
- At each concert, two board members will staff a table to increase public awareness of the Friends.
- Other groups have also been invited to set up tables.
- The Children's Summer Reading Program will have fewer, but more worthwhile, prizes this year including books, tote bags, Blue Rocks tickets and grand prizes for the top readers including: Children's Museum subscription--Age 6-8, Age 9-11 and 12 and Mini iPads, Age 12 and up/ Adults—Gift Certificates.
- Ms. Bowler moved, seconded by Martha Gessler to give Ms. Kaufman \$300.00 for petty cash during the summer.

### **Advocacy Report**

- Kay Bowes attended the DLA meeting where she sat at the Friends' Table.
- She learned that all three Delaware counties govern their libraries differently.
- Friends of Delaware Libraries are assembling orientation packets for new board members or trustee.
- House Bill 152 which would require school librarians in all schools will be heard next week.

### **Program Committee**

- The library summer concerts begin next week. The Friends will increase visibility by having two board members staff a table at each concert.
  - June 17--- Agnes Galvin, Martha Gessler
  - July 8----- Lynne Rosa and Natalee Burke
  - July 15---- Lynne Rosa
- Ms. Gessler suggested a visit from a keeper at the Brandywine Zoo as a possible fall 2015 program.

### **President's Remarks**

Ms. Rosa would like to schedule:

1. A fall conference for board members
2. A holiday party, sponsored by the Friends in late November.
3. Board meetings with a major agenda item each month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next meeting will be held on Tues July 14, at 7PM in the library.

**Motion Passed:** Ms. Bowler moved seconded by Ms. Gessler to give Ms. Kaufman \$300 for use as petty cash during the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Agnes M. Galvin