

Friends of the Ringwood Public Library, Minutes of Meeting of Sept. 14, 2017 – approved 11/9/2017

Attendees: Lisa Petri, Heather Caldwell, Carol Baligh, Amy Geisel, Jessica Einreinhof, Gail Lubot, Claire Axelrod, Marge Gavan, Eileen Manley

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Acting President Lisa Petri.

Minutes of the Meeting of July 27, 2017 were approved. Heather Caldwell moved, Amy Geisel seconded. All approved with one abstention.

Announcements:

- 1) Lisa Petri read Lauren Tuttle's official letter of resignation from the Friends' presidency. The Friends expressed their appreciation of her efforts and look forward to working with her in the future.
- 2) The Center for Food Action (Ringwood) needs new school supplies. Any donations should be brought to the Community Church on Tuesdays.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Baligh reported that the bank account, as of August 31, 2017, balanced at \$31,295.11. Checks still outstanding are \$1200 for the Robotics instructor, \$825 for the robotic kits and \$775 for the Webpage.

Notes from the Board Meeting: There is a new Board member, Amanda Gillman, who is very active in town and the library. The Board is considering hiring an architect to help with a new and improved floor plan. The new sidewalk is complete, at a cost to the Borough of nearly \$40,000. The upgrading of the electrical system in the building is still pending, and it is also a Borough expense. The upgrading of the computers and AV is a project that the Friends will pay for and is still in its early stages; the Friends may use the State vendor that the Borough has to supply initial quotes; otherwise we will have to use outside vendors and try to have them quote on all the same equipment. The quotes will include smart boards that have been requested by the staff, WIFI hot spots and improved audio/visual for lectures and movies. The Board has approved establishing a new music series. A committee of 4 is working on this, with the intent of applying for a Passaic County Cultural Arts Grant to help cover expenses.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brick Reclaim Project Final Report: Eileen Manley reported that the remaining bricks are at the Borough Garage. Over 50% of all the bricks have been returned and those who still want their bricks can contact the Library and arrangements will be made. 36 people have already done this.

A slide show of all the bricks has been produced, is on a thumb drive and will be showing periodically at the Community Desk, either on the TV screen or on a lap top. The bricks will also become part of the library's virtual history currently in production.

Robotics Program: The registration for this program is complete, with 15 children enrolled and another 10 on the waiting list. Going forward, we may expand the program if we have good feedback on this first

attempt. One suggestion is to repeat the beginning program in the winter, followed by a more advanced program in the spring which would be open to all participants of the fall and winter programs. We will need to consider how we will raise the money in the future, perhaps getting the town more involved.

Membership Report: Eileen Manley reported that 31 people are members of the Friends, at this point, and their memberships are good through Dec. 31, 2017. There is some confusion since the Association just sent out letters to remind people to join the Association before Oct. 1. Eileen proposed the following: Since all Friends must be members of the Association, only one dues invoice needs to be sent annually and it should come from the Association and would include membership to the Association and also the Friends. Since the fiscal years for the Association and the Friends are a calendar year, the invoice should be mailed annually in January, with a deadline of October 1. A separate fund-raising letter from the Association should be mailed annually in the fall. Discussion followed as to how to handle someone who joins late in the calendar year.

Book Sale: Eileen Manley reported that most of the advance notices and PR have been taken care of. Thanks were given to Janine Graham for her great work on flyers and posters. Eileen will take care of the media notifications late in September, and Amy Geisel will handle the posters on A-frames borrowed from the Borough. Amy moved, and Heather Caldwell seconded, that the Friends spend \$78 for A-frame posters that will be weatherproofed. The motion carried. Sign up sheets for volunteering were passed around, and the sign-up book will be at the desk for the next four weeks. Jessica Einreinhof volunteered to take some left-overs and bring them to Harvest Fest at Skylands on Sunday, Oct. 15. Anne Siebecker will take some of the remaining large print books. There is also a Veterans organization who will take books, in addition to the Better World Books. Perhaps we can set aside some books to add to the Little Libraries that have popped up all over town.

Girl Scout Overnight: This has been arranged by the Association and its staff with the Girl Scouts, as represented by Amy Jolin. It will be on Friday, Oct. 20th and will involve Daisy and Brownie units from town. Each child will be accompanied by an adult, with sleeping bags for overnight anywhere on the main floor. The staff has planned activities during the evening hours, including a story-time. Lights out will be at 10:30 pm. The children will be fed breakfast the next morning and be gone by the time the library opens. This will be a fund-raiser for the library; the cost will be \$20 per child.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Jersey Library Trustees Association: Heather Caldwell reported that she and Amanda Gillman attended a workshop held by this Association. The next workshop will be held in Parsippany on Oct. 14 and in Burlington on Oct. 28, should anyone be interested. Heather noted two points of interest that came out of the workshop. First, on the ballot in November, will be a bond issue for Library construction. Although the Borough of Ringwood will not participate in this, it is good for all libraries, and we should give it our serious consideration. Secondly, FYI, there is no mandate in NJ for schools to have media specialists. Consequently, studies have shown that students are not learning the skills to do research for type of project or written report. Therefore, we should be very appreciative that we have skilled librarians in each of our Ringwood schools.

Elections for Friends' officers: These will be held at the Friends' October meeting. Jessica Einreinhof agreed to be the Nominating Committee. All positions (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) are open, and they are two-year terms. Anyone who is interested should contact Jessica. Friends' members who are members of the Association Board are ineligible.

Pop-up Book Shelves aka Little Free Libraries: To be tabled until Susan Rakosi Rosenbloom can attend the meeting.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: This organization, located at Boscobel in Garrison, NY, has a traveling unit that does performances or workshops for children. The price is \$800 (for a workshop) or \$1200 to \$2200 (for a performance). Each is about 90 minutes in length. Something for us to consider, particularly as a balance to the sciences (robotics) that we are offering.

Next Meeting: Will be Oct. 19th at 7:30 pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Manley, secretary