

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BERKLEY LIBRARY MINUTES

October 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. In attendance were Chairperson Carla Ross-Lyman, Trustee Paula Dugan, Trustee Megan Silva, Library Director Carol Buote and Secretary Linda Andrade Rodrigues. Friends of the Library President Danielle Nicolet was absent. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Meeting Minutes of September 12 was approved. Megan Silva motioned, Paula Dugan seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE: Carla Ross-Lyman AYE

 Megan Silva AYE

 Paula Dugan AYE

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT

Erica Grady submitted a report from September 12, 2023 to October 17, 2023. They have been busy this month with the following programs and events:

5 StoryTimes with 55 attendees who enjoyed stories, simple crafts and games. They had special guests from the 4H Club who performed "Johnny Appleseed" on October 2. This was a nice surprise, and they invited them back anytime;

5 VolunTEENS programs with 40 participants. The TEENS have been busy with library tasks and planning the Spooky Pumpkin Walk event to be held on October 27. Jocelyn A. has taken the lead as the project manager and is doing a great job;

2 Writing Circle programs with 12 participants. The group is working on "A Community Chronicle", a live story inviting patrons to add to the unfolding narrative on the door in the Children's Room;

1 LEGO Night with 28 participants who had fun creating “food item” builds. Erica Grady will be bringing this back monthly as requested;

1 3D printing class with 3 participants. They are creating a 3D Printing Club to encourage all skill levels to join in and share;

1 Pokemon Club with 20 attendees who enjoyed celebrating a club member’s birthday, playing trivia and BINGO.

A newsletter went out October 1 reaching 106 people and marketing continues to be created across the board.

The guessing jar winner was happy this month with guessing and winning 88 Smarties and a coin bank.

Erica Grady submitted Berkley Cultural Grants for next summer’s programming. She has selected Vinny the Bubble Guy for a large outdoor bubble program and summer kickoff; Ed the Wizard with a balloon-twisting workshop; and Matt Gabriel with Animal World Experience.

The SAILS network statistics show 803 juvenile and 75 young adult materials circulated in September.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

For the October 5 Book Club meeting, 6 attendees met to discuss “*No Rest for the Dead*,” a serial novel with 26 authors. They selected “*The Measure*” by Nikki Erlick for their November meeting. The Knot Just Knitting groups also met in September with 12 attendees.

Virtual Trivia was held on September 16 with 23 attendees and on October 14 with 12 attendees. If the Trivia numbers remain low, Carol Buote will change the frequency of that event.

The library had a display for “Banned Book Week”. Their current adult book displays are about “Staff Favorites” and “Cozy Up with a Good Scare.”

Amy McNamara is working on a library card sign-up program with the schools. She has 3 from BMS and 6 from BCS at this point.

For the town salary review effort, Carol Buote has new copies of their job descriptions to review and approve. She is in the process of doing that.

They received a public records request from Jeff Raymond for any book challenges or complaints. They didn't have any to report.

Carol Buote did a first quarter budget review and highlighted some areas that they need to watch. They are in good shape at this point.

The yearly Financial Report for State Aid has been submitted.

Carol Buote signed up to partner with the Massachusetts Center for the Book for their 2024 reading challenge. This involves encouraging patrons to participate and advertising about the challenge.

The staff spent a lot of time processing books before and after a book sale, and the library has many less-stored donations now.

They had a week with two employees out sick, and Amy McNamara and Carol Buote had to cover things.

Lights Out is scheduled for Sunday, December 3. They were thinking of doing a combination of indoor and outdoor things. The adult area could have cider and light appetizers.

FRIENDS' REPORT

The Friends are collecting cans and bottles at the Transfer Station this month. They opted not to sell anything at the Pumpkin Walk. In past years they have not made much selling snacks or glow sticks, so with their limited volunteer base, they have chosen to allow this to be a solo event for the VolunTEENS.

President Danielle Nicolet is still actively looking for new members to help them with events and fundraisers to benefit the library. Their Friends group has dwindled a little in recent years, and they are really in need of the extra hands to

make it possible to do more for the library. Last month they held their cocktail tasting at Bristol County Wine and Spirits. Everyone had a great time. They also had their bookstall during the concert on the Common. Lots of books were sold, as well as crocheted items. The leftover books were scanned by Cathy and sent to Better World Books.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Carla Ross-Lyman read the Materials Policy, dated January 2019, and the Board of Trustees discussed the relevance of the current collection and offered updates. “We strive to create a collection that reflects the differing views and diversity of our world, country and the community,” Paula Dugan explained. The discussion will continue at the November meeting.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

The next Building Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

ADJOURN

Megan Silva made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., and Paula Dugan seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE: Carla Ross-Lyman AYE

 Megan Silva AYE

 Paula Dugan AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Andrade Rodrigues