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FRIENDS OF THE BEEKMAN LIBRARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 7, 2023

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lynn Adams, Jerry Balcom, Xenia Ebel, Mickey Fraher, Larry Korducki, Anne Marie Larkin, Kris Macdonald, (Secretary), Barbara Rendich, (Vice President), Anne Daurer, Irene Drugan, Joan Korducki, Jennifer Mihocko, (Acting Treasurer), Jeanette Simone, Arlene Vaquer, (President), Merle Von Wettberg Mary Jane Zukowski.

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Fortier, Director of the Beekman Library

CALL TO ORDER:

Arlene called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Mickey moved to accept the December 6th minutes as distributed, this motion was seconded by Larry and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Total amount in the Checking Account is \$6,542.95, Savings \$980. The Sales Tax due in March is estimated to be \$952.

Arlene moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, the motion was seconded by Lynn A and passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Administration

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 26 at 2pm. Paul Mays from Butler Rowland and Mays will present the Master Plan for the expansion at the beginning of the meeting.

This will be our first public announcement of our plans to expand our usable public space. I hope all of you will try to attend.

Expansion

The Expansion Committee and Paul Mays met with the Town Code Enforcement Officer and the Town Engineer to review plans for the lower level renovations. They both indicated that they see no problems with our plans or our use of the lower level prior to the elevator/stairwell expansion. This is good news.

Outreach & Publicity

We implemented new Marketing Plans for programming to make sure we are targeting our outreach.

Programs & Services

Children's Literary Festival was a success and both the authors and the children had a great time. Many of our children's programs are very popular and have waiting lists. We are doing our best to meet the demand but without another meeting room and more staff we are limited in what we can do.

414 Funding Vote

The board has decided that we will once again pursue a funding vote this year. This will be the third year in a row. They should be commended for their willingness to keep moving forward to bring our funding to an adequate level.

Some encouraging news on this front. Senator Harckham has sponsored legislation to lower the number of signatures needed for a 414 vote. The legislation is S3594 also known as Reduce Inequitable Petition Signature Requirements for Small and Rural Libraries. I am asking that you email a letter (word doc.) that I can send in a batch to Senator Harckham so he can show that there is support for this legislation. I will send a sample letter for Arlene to distribute. I will be sending the letters on Monday.

Following Carol's report there was a discussion about the lower level construction start.

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING REPORT:

Arlene attended the meeting. At the Library's Board's Annual Meeting, the Friends will give the Library a big check, \$29,155

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Book Sale:

Arlene asked that Section owners let us know what their thoughts and wants are when we have to downsize?

Membership:

Arlene told us that at the end of January we had 3 renewals and \$225 in donations. Arlene will have a membership table at the Winter Social.

Annual Appeal: To date we had 83 donors with a total of \$10,480.00 from the Appeal.

Social Media:

Fundraising:

Christmas Cookie Sale: We raised \$1,150 from sold cookies. Congrats Marvelle.

Winter Social: Barbara reported that the plans for the Winter Social were going well.

She needs volunteers for some food items and to come for set up 4pm Saturday.

Raffles:

Winners of the Christmas Wrap and 4 other raffle baskets were drawn at the Cookie Sale.

It was decided that we will put up a "Snowflake" Lottery Scratch Off for Jan and Feb. The winning ticket will also be drawn at the Winter Social.

The Italian Basket will be up for in February for the March 18th book sale.

OLD BUSINESS:

Arlene spoke about the issues we are having with Discover Books. She emailed the CEO because they owe us money. She will now write a physical letter, this is not professional. There was a discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 7th at 12pm

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Macdonald
Secretary