

Brown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes - 9/27/22

Present: Maryann Beaupre (President/Chair), John Stevens (Treasurer), Cyndy Bushey (Vice President), Tossy Garrett (Secretary taking minutes), Gail Hall (MAL), Dale Kunkel (MAL), Kelli Sutton-Bosley (MAL), Sherri Brickey (Director), Rebecca Pearish (Youth Librarian).

5:00- Meeting Called to Order (Maryann), Agenda review. One change in agenda, Rebecca and Gail will discuss their item first due to schedules.

5:01- Previous Minutes. Cyndy moved to approve the August minutes, John seconded. Voted and approved.

5:02- Treasurer's report. John reported the Form 990 for last year, and is working on the 990EZ for this year (due in November). We are rolling along fine financially, although our investments are down. Dale moved to accept, Cyndy seconded, voted and approved.

5:05- Librarian's Report- Volunteer hours were down a bit last month. We had received many books for the labor day book sale, and we may want to talk about limiting the type of books we accept in the future so we don't have so many left over. The website is almost ready, hopefully in October. Sherri has completed paperwork for the AARPA round 2 grant. August was our busiest month so far for visits, computer use, and checkouts. The youth program was also busy and fun.

5:10 Special Business – controversial book shelving discussion- Gail: do we want to discuss putting a policy in place for controversial books? Perhaps done by committee? Rebecca: there was a Dr. Seuss controversy, resolved by keeping books in the collection but shelving downstairs so they can be requested but not in public view. She would like to have a committee for this type of situation so it isn't all on the librarians' decision. Sherri also thought that she would prefer a committee to decide instead of her first (as in the Montpelier policy) Kelliann: a policy would be a good idea, with a timeline in place so the committee can read and discuss for informed decisions. Rebecca: would the committee's discussion be subject to open meeting law? Yes, it would be a public discussion, and a specially scheduled warned meeting. Should we pull a book that was complained about while deciding? No. Conversation about the book Gender Queer, Rebecca discussed why she chose the book for our library (multiple awards), then talked about our young adult graphic novel section. There are other graphic novels in this section that have violent and sexual imagery. Perhaps we can think about creating an Adult Graphic Novel section, where books published for adults would go, even if they would be suitable for young adults also. Actions: We will create a policy for controversial book requests (Gail will draft for review), and also create an adult graphic novel section based on publishers' classification of the book.

5:41- Old Business:

- **Website Update-** Sherri said there was a volunteer patron who took photos for the website, and Paul Sternberg is happy with the photos. Website should be live in October, and Kelliann recommended that we make sure his name is credited on the website since he is doing this work on a volunteer basis. We will also send a gift of some kind.
- **Fix Downstairs Hall Door-** The cover isn't on the door yet- the company is still looking for one, and we will continue to follow up.
- **Furniture-** Tossy hasn't done anything with this yet, will before next meeting. The chair by the door needs to be replaced very soon.

- **Annual Appeal-** we should start working on this soon, we were late last year. There will be a donate button on the website, so we shouldn't send out the appeal until the new site is up. Tossy will write up this year's draft. The address list is mostly up to date, and Sherri will add the new addresses.
- **Update on New Worker-** he is doing a good job, works hard and is reliable & responsible.

5:45- New Business

- **Labor Day Booksale-** John said we made \$1800, and Gail sold some books to Bear Pond for \$90. We do still have books to get rid of, they need to go one box at a time to the ReStore.
- **Raffle Results:** We made \$220. Next year we need to set up the raffle a month earlier to sell tickets in the library for more exposure.
- **Friends Report:** Gail talked to a couple who are interested in putting together a newsletter for the Friends of the Library, gathering feedback on what the current 'Friends' would like to do and move forward from there. They aren't interested in taking leadership roles right now, but hopefully they will be able to revitalize the organization.

5:58- Other business: none

5:58- Executive Session: none

5:58- Cyndy moved to adjourn the meeting, Kelli seconded; voted & moved. Meeting adjourned.