

Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library Meeting – 17-Nov-2008

A meeting of the Friends of the Brandywine Hundred Library was held on Monday, November 17, 2008, in the library. In attendance were Eileen Lynch, Joy Naquin, Kristie Moore, Lois Myoda and Marcia Dillon. Claire Kantar, Mary Bowler and Danna Levy arrived as the meeting was in progress.

Also in attendance were Library Mgr Tom Weaver, Friends member Jim Conrad and guest Agnes Galvin. Eileen Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Approval of October minutes

On motion of Marcia, seconded by Mary, the board approved the October, 2008, minutes as Emailed.

Treasurer's report

Marcia reported that there is not much money coming in on memberships; we have had a total of six renewals since October 1.

Library Manager's report

Tom reported that circulation in October, 2008, has increased 9 per cent over October, 2007. The library also added a lot of new borrowers in October; there is an increase of 18 per cent over October, 2007.

Tom spoke about an incident that happened in the library on Sunday. A woman approached an 8-year-old and a 16-year-old, took from them the library videos they had selected, said it came from the devil and suggested other material to them. Tom spoke with the parents and the children; no staff member witnessed the incident. The info given to the children included the name of a church in Pennsylvania. Tom will attempt to identify the woman and enforce disciplinary action.

The library budget is the number one priority and will be for some time, given current economic conditions. So far there have been no reductions in staff. There have been reductions in spending and the library may have to consider reducing operating hours. The county executive is conducting a tour to get feedback from the community. This is where the Friends can help. A number of studies have shown that every dollar invested in a library returns from \$6 to \$12. We need to emphasize this to county officials at every opportunity.

A copy of the most recent library statistics and other info is submitted with these minutes.

Communications Committee – Kristie reported that the next newsletter will be out as soon as possible, in order to comply with the requirement in the by-laws to publish the slate of proposed board members prior to the December election. This newsletter will probably be a two-page edition.

Delaware Community Foundation

Mary has talked with the DCF, and has obtained a copy of their newsletter. There is a library master fund that will match funds up to \$2000. This fund is a managed portfolio, based on a balance of financial instruments. Mary handed out information on the Delaware Community Foundation and asked all board members to review it prior to the next meeting. Mary will attempt to schedule a DCF speaker for the next meeting.

Delaware Humanities Forum

Claire reported that we have booked Ed Okonowicz for a "Meet the Presidents" presentation on February 22, 2009, 2-5pm, in an upstairs conference room. On motion of Claire, seconded by Marcia, the board approved \$50 to pay for the February program. Claire will talk to Kay Bowes about scheduling a humanities program during library week.

Holocaust Collection

Lois reported on the research done to identify possible materials for the holocaust collection. Tom stated that there is a contract between New Castle County and the group that provides materials for the holocaust collection. The contract has been in effect for years, beginning when the library was on Concord Pike. The holocaust collection cannot be expanded except by the terms of the contract. Since the Friends will have to operate within the contractual terms, Tom will investigate what the contract allows and report at a future meeting. It may be possible to add materials to the library's regular collection.

Nominating Committee Report

Kristie introduced Agnes to the group as a nominee for board membership. Agnes is a retired elementary school principal and has experience in newsletter editing and grant writing. Jim Conrad is willing to serve as President for the remainder of the 2008-2009 president's term. Mary Bowler is willing to run for Vice-President. The board favors the idea of organizing teen volunteers as a board activity. On motion of Danna, seconded by Mary, the board approved that Danna act as the teen volunteer coordinator.

Discussion of brick program

Jim reported that there are 31 bricks to be ordered. Kathy has Emailed the donors with an update on the status; we will attempt to expedite the brick orders. It is expected that the new bricks can be installed by the end of the year.

The library has decided to suspend the brick campaign, due to unresolved issues with ordering. It is hoped that getting caught up on brick orders will allow us to resume the brick campaign soon. Eileen commented that we should make progress in restoring the brick program to its former efficiency before formally re-opening the brick campaign.

Responsibility for room reservations

Tom reported that meetings are usually booked for a year in advance. Since the conference room has already been reserved, the board's next meeting will be on the 2nd Tuesday in December (December 9). We would prefer to meet in the cafe, if possible, so that we can continue the tradition of having refreshments at the December meeting. Tom will check on availability and Email the board about the meeting location. Since the candidate for president is not available on the third Tuesday of the month, the board may have to reconsider changing the meeting date.

Adjourn

In the absence of any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy A. Naquin
FBHL Secretary