

Minutes of the May 21, 2024 RFRR Board Meeting

Present: Kirstin Bucci, Lina Eroh, Jan Kelsey, Kathleen Riegelhaupt, Jaclyn Cohen, Jennifer McArdle, Jill MacVicar, Emilie Reddoch, Jaclyn Shanahan, Diane Martin, Georgia Dyer

Kirstin Bucci called the meeting to order at 7:34. No one from the public was in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda includes the March 19, 2024 meeting minutes, the March 2024 financial statements and the April 2024 financial statements. Jackie moved that the consent agenda be approved. Kathleen seconded. All approved.

President's Report

Kirstin reminded all trustees to complete their trustee education requirement. Each trustee is required to do 2 hours of trustee education each year. There are several one and a half hour sessions being offered throughout the year by the Mid-Hudson Library System. There are also pre recorded videos and webinars available from New York State. Certificates of attendance should be forwarded to Kirstin.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Chris reported on the first quarter statistics. Circulation is up. There was a good return on card sign-ups. Adult program attendance was down a bit, but children's program attendance was up. The door count was flat. Chris then presented the NYS Annual Report which is a compilation of the year-end statistics. Jan made a motion to approve the NYS Annual Report. Kathleen seconded. All approved.

Chris reported that he has been working with the Human Rights Commission and several high school students to bring a Smithsonian traveling exhibit to the library in June 2025. It is entitled "The Bias Within Us" and would be up for a month. He also reported that a new study room has been created on the second floor in what was the former printer room.

Adult Services

Catherine reported that there was a good turn out for both the Jack Benny Radio Program presentation and the fall prevention presentation. The library is starting a mah jong program on Sundays. The library will be joining with the Rye Historical Society in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the visit by Lafayette in 1824. Embroidery kits will be available and the finished projects will be exhibited in August. A sewing circle will begin during the summer.

Teen Services

Catherine reported that mixed media art work done by the high school art class will be on display in June in the Teen room and the gallery. The library has been asked to have a table at Rye Pryed on June 1st at Rye Town Park.

Children's Services

Catherine reported that there was a new program of kid's films on Fridays. Crafty Kids meets twice a week and Cooking with Kids is still very popular. The summer reading program will kick-off on June 15 with a life size Candy Land. This year the reward for reaching each milestone will be a book. The reading has to be tracked online. Several trustees inquired as to whether a tangible way of tracking could be added.

Board Discussion

Development

Lina talked about the proposed language change for the annual campaign. The word "friend" rather than "member" is going to be used forward in an effort to alleviate the confusion between being a cardholder and being a library member. It is felt that the change will make it clearer that the friends are financial supporters of the library. Ideas for increased opportunities for friends to have early access to events such as author talks, the book sale etc. were discussed. The goal is to increase the membership base. Lina then opened a discussion of possible donor appreciation events for those donors at the highest levels. It was discussed as to whether one event for all donors over \$1,000 or two events (one for the top two categories and the other for the \$1,000 to \$2,500 level). Ideas included a cocktail party, a friends opening of the Discovery Zone, and a presale event before the Book Sale. The library has no specific budget line for appreciation events. In the past these have been funded by various trustees.

Buildings and Grounds

Landscaping

Emilie reported that the plants are in. A quote for the sprinkler system is expected next week. Work on the brick patio begins next week. A letter will go out about the new plantings. Peggy has kept the gardens clubs up to date on the project. Jan moved that the Board approve up to \$40,000 from the Capital Projects Fund for the landscaping project. Lina seconded. All approved.

Seawall

Chris met with the Director of the Y about possible coordination in seeking funding for sea wall work. The Rye Nature Center received a grant to fund repair of their banks along the brook for silt reduction and preservation of Long Island Sound. There was a discussion as to whether the library should work with the Y to pursue funding from this grant source. It seemed that the grant specifications were too narrow to accommodate the library's needs. The Board asked that the library reach out to our state and county officials for information about any grant possibilities appropriate for the library.

Children's Room

Chris reported that all furniture orders have been placed. There are plans for the reuse of the existing furniture. The room will close for the work to begin at the end of June.

Nominating

Two potential candidates for trustees have been identified.

Auxiliary Board

Georgia reported that the Vehicle Fair made over \$31,000. This is a new record. There were a great many day-of ticket sales.

There being no further business, Kirstin called for a motion to adjourn. Jennifer so moved. Lina seconded. All agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Action : The Board approve the May meeting minutes