

Rye Free Reading Room
Minutes
September 27, 2016

Present: Susan Jansen, Bernie Althoff, Kristin Bucci, Patsy Rafter, Paula Gamache, Fran Rodilosso, Ted Burdick, Peter Sinnott IV, Francis Jenkins, Eileen O'Connor, Bill Fallon, Carolina Johnson.

Not Present: John Eckerson, Taegan Goddard, Eric Bock, Gail Fell, Sarah Wise Miller, Aimee Sheldon, Mary Sykes. Mark Zwerger, Lise White.

Francis Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM
Susan Jansen made a motion to approve the minutes Bernie Althoff seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by all.

Public Comment

Debra Julian reported we stand at \$1,025,000 for the Capital Campaign. The summer was successful with the \$25,000 challenge match and 2 parties: the Sinnott's at the beginning of the summer and the Henschel's in August. It's the most money raised by the RFRR in 15 years.

Debra asked board members to host a cocktail party as it's the best vehicle for fundraising. A party in Milton Point would tap into a new donor set.

Financial Report

In June, there was a TravelPort distribution of \$26,000. That misc. income can offset any lower annual campaign results. The annual campaign is only \$3,000 behind last year's year to date total.

In July, the second funding transfer from the city arrived and the library received a \$5,000 donation to the AC. Endowment performed well.

August closely tracked to budget and we're ahead by \$4,500 on the AC, and the endowment is performing well.

Ted Burdick moved to approve the June July and August Financial Reports. The motion was seconded by Bernie Althoff, and approved by all.

Paula presented the budget for 2017 that was submitted to the city asking for a 2.9% increase over 2016. It holds hours of operation steady and shows salary increases as per contracts. She explained that if we don't get the increase we have a \$35,000 deficit. To close the gap possible proposals include cuts to hours, including one night and Saturday mornings.

Chris had a preliminary meeting with Marcus and available funding is minimal. The library budget presentation will be Monday, November 14th.

Francis Jenkins made a motion to approve the proposed 2017 budget, Fran Rodilosso seconded and all voted in favor.

Buildings and Grounds

A \$177,000 project for quiet rooms was submitted to NYS and the RFRR received a grant of \$11,000 Chris advised to accept the grant funds.

Francis Jenkins made a motion to approve the project and accept the grant, seconded by Susan Jansen and approved by all.

Francis Jenkins asked if anyone would object to staggering the work for the capital campaign. Peter Sinnott mentioned a lot of work can be done with one million dollars to show the community what is feasible and that way encourage more donations. Opening up the mezzanine will have the most visible impact.

Development

Chris has put together a colorful brochure with a strong ask for the Annual Campaign, plus the letters we're signing. Lisa King, a former Auxiliary Board Member, was the graphic designer. The letter will go to roughly 1,450 past donors. In November, the Cover to Cover newsletter will incorporate the letter and a donation envelope. There will also be 4 newspaper ads in November and December to encourage donations to the annual campaign. The library lost some significant donors, which shows a decline in the Annual Campaign.

Nominating

Francis Jenkins asked for feedback on what the make up of the board should be.

Strategic planning

Chris sent a survey to 4k people and has gotten 80 responses. The feedback so far is positive.

Auxiliary

Only 260 replies for Novel Night have been received, normally we have 300 at this time. That count doesn't include party hosts and guests. The journal is doing well and the Silent Auction will be promoted online.

The board and Chris are looking at a mini golf fundraiser and giant cardboard maze, both events in the Winter 2017 or 2018.

Director 's report

Overall circulation is down partly due to weeding out of titles. Program numbers and attendance is higher. The homework hub program will not continue for the 2016-2017 school year. There was minimal attendance, and one of the program underwriters did not contribute to the program.

A paint job on the first floor shelves makes the collection stand out more. The summer

reading program was successful, with more children and teens than previous years, and more books read.

Chris reminded the board he was collecting checks for the auction item for Novel Night. The contribution is \$150.

Francis Jenkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Jansen seconded and all approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.