

Friends of Bethlehem Public Library
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2009, 7:00 pm

Present: Polly Hartman, Janna Harton, Meryl Norek, Marsha Levin, Mike Levin, Mary Kim Purcell, Sue Viscuso, Bill Acquario, Elissa Zwiebach and guest Marianne Purcell

Marianne Purcell was welcomed and introductions were made. Marianne indicated interest in working with the Board.

President's Report

1. November's meeting minutes were approved. With minor changes.
2. The Boston bus trip March 28 already has 27 seats paid with a March 14 deadline. 34 seats is the breakeven. The December bus trip went well.
3. For the 8/11/09 Glimmerglass Opera bus trip (day trip with lunch included) Hannelore Wilfert can provide a pre-event discussion, perhaps a week before.
4. The Italian trip 3/24/09 has 5 people going. If all go Friends should receive \$1719.50. The board discussed concerns related to the administrative side of coordinating this trip.
5. The eco bag sample that was at the library was discussed. The board approved ordering 250 bags at a cost of \$440 + \$42 set-up fee as a good alternative to the more expensive canvas bag that was last purchased. These will be sold at the library desk to raise money for Friends activities.
6. Mini-golf was discussed again and several board members felt it would be helpful to coordinate a trip to see a nearby event in action before committing.
7. The business campaign thanks ad was in the Spotlight 1/14/09. The Friends received a 25% discount.

Treasurer's Report as of 1/26/09

Balance forward \$12,294.58

Receipts

Personal donations \$145.00

December bus trip 2283.00 (gain of \$874)

December bake sale 72.65

Book bag sales 72.00

Teddy bear sales 84.00 2656.65

Actual Expenses

Deposit to Glimmerglass \$627.20

NYS LAAUSPS 200.00

ESL 300.00

October author program 653.01

Spotlight 185.00 1965.21

Balance in checkbook \$12,986.02

Allocated expenses

Author series \$2347.00

Winter concerts 1150.00

Wade Tours (March/Aug) 2053.00

Scholarships 1000.00

NYS Library Assoc Conf 25.00

Riverway 1250.00

Glimmerglass (Aug trip) 2508.00

Otesago (Aug trip) 900.00 11,233.80

Net funds available \$1,752.22

Liaison's Report

1. Jeanne is on leave recuperating. The board approved the Levins finding an appropriate dish garden to send to the library to await her return next week.
2. The board approved the library's English as a Second Language program's request for assistance with reception expenses.
3. The board is being asked to give more money for library events such as the author series and music.

New Business

1. The holiday bus trip will be Saturday December 5. Polly will order 2 buses. We'd like to include preliminary information in the May/June Footnotes (deadline is March 16). We might consider a zoo trip early October (perhaps 10/3). Polly will call the zoo and price the bus and tickets.
2. The Russell Banks event will be February 8. Because the library does that reception, there will be no bake sale.
3. Bake sales have gone well, making about \$70 each time. Volunteers were established for upcoming events.
4. A Scholarship Awards Committee was established, Janna, Mariane, Bill and Elissa. The topic will be why the library is so important in tough economic times. Jeanne will provide the applications to the committee when they are received.
5. A Friends on the Green discussion was tabled until the next meeting. A concern of rain was voiced.
6. The officer slate for next year was briefly discussed. Meghan won't be a representative. Other high school students will be invited.
7. We'll wait until fall for the business appeal letter. June 1 is the fiscal year. We'll do the individual ask in spring. Elissa will help with labels and a database.
8. Considering the budget and the economy we should all think about possible fundraisers. The more people involved and coming to events means more resources to enhance the library.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm

Next meeting: March 30, 2009

