Franklin Public Library

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

**Present:** Charlene Belcher, Sandi Brandfonbrener, Monique Doyle, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Ginette Preto, Amanda Rabbitt, Alison Wallace of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti.

**Call to Order:** Monique called the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the November meeting were approved as amended.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Kathleen:** Kathleen shared a brochure from the Norfolk Public Library about their library of things. Members of the board noted that many people have no idea about this collection. Felicia will consider creating such a brochure for Franklin.

**Monique:** Monique shared an article from yesterday’s Boston Globe about toy libraries which are gaining in popularity. Toy libraries are now in operation independently and as part of libraries. A discussion ensued about how the toys would be cleaned. Ginette suggested a light which kills germs. Felicia will research this device.

Monique reported that the total from January’s book sale was $1886. Although a book sale was held in December, the attendance was lower than usual. Next year a determination will be made about whether omitting a book sale in December will become protocol.

Monique also shared an article about options for unsold books from the book sale. Felicia responded that we already have an organization to collect unsold books but will save the article in case of future needs.

**Ginette:** A teacher with the art program who teaches drawing with the Lifelong Learning is interested in displaying the work of the students. Ginette and Amanda have reached out to the Franklin Public Schools and several are interested in participating in a display of art.

Ginette shared the pricing for printing the library brochure. The prices depend on the quality of the paper. The Board discussed next steps. Monique will work on the brochure to edit and eliminate extraneous detail.

**Charlene:** The Music boosters are interested in performing at the library.

**Amanda:** Amanda asked about the ESL program. The program will be reactivated in February; however the coordinator will not be training volunteers. This is in response to the survey results.

**Report of the Library Directo**r: Felicia shared that Steve Sherlock, of Franklin Matters and Franklin TV, has offered to narrate a library tour. Felicia will also reach out to Steve to ask him to post photos and news about library events.

Regarding the restoration of the murals and paintings, Vicki, Eamon and Alan Earls will only write the grant for the mural restoration contingent upon matching funds. In order to apply for a grant, one must have secured matching funds. Felicia will reach out to the Franklin Library Association to determine if they will commit to some level of funding.

The gutters are leaking in the main reading room. The architects, Town Administrator, and other key Individuals examined the situation. The downspouts are frozen. Felicia contacts the appropriate people regularly for an update on the situation. The Board expressed concern about the condition of the plaster, and the possibility of mold and mildew behind the walls. Sandi requested a timeline for resolving the issue.

**Strategic Planning:** The Board began a discussion of the strategic plan. What are we doing well? What can we improve upon? What resources do we need? At the next meeting we will focus on the mission statement, the vision statement, the values and the SOAR analysis. Before the next meeting Felicia will share trends in libraries. The Board should come prepared with their suggestions.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2020

**Topics for the next meeting:** At the meeting we will focus exclusively on the strategic plan.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski