**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**February 27, 2023**

**Present**: Charleen Belcher, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele, Alison Wallace of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti.

**Call to Order**: Charleen called the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**: None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December meeting were approved as amended. The January meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Kathleen:** Kathleen attended the Oasis Organization event on January 28th. Only a handful of people attended. Felicia observed that typically only adult art classes have strong participation. Kathleen also asked if the community was satisfied with the Libby/Overdrive platform for e-books and audiobooks. She waited five months for a title. Felicia said that patrons often complain about the long wait for materials. Complaints are forwarded to Minuteman Library Network. The circulation desk will show patrons how to expand access on Libby to other libraries beyond Minuteman. Felicia will address this topic in the next library newsletter. Another program for e-books and audiobooks is under consideration.

**Charleen**: Charleen attended the snowman paint class with Denise last month. Some people signed up for the class, and then did not show up or cancel. Going forward, language will be added to the program sign up reminding others that these are very popular programs. Patrons will be informed that there is often a waiting list, and we want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend.

On February 1st Charleen attended a Friends of Franklin Library meeting. FOFL recently reached out to 391 new homeowners to join the organization. They have been earning funds from the sale of the Franklin Library Association book written by Alan Earls, and from selling fudge. During National Library Week, the Friends would like to host an appreciation event for library staff.

**Library Director’s report:**

**Facilities Use Policy:** The Board reviewed additions to the facilities use policy. Felicia will include the new language and present a revised draft at the March meeting.

**Public Programming Policy:** Amanda observed that the public programming policy was redundant. Felicia will edit the policy and present a draft for review at the next meeting.

**English as a Second Language**: ESL now has 61 volunteers and 29 students. Volunteers undergo an online, self-paced training. Once training is complete, volunteers are matched with a student. Kim has submitted an application for a $15K grant.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance:** VITA began on February 6th with four volunteers. The required IRS training test will not allow volunteers to fail more than twice, which limits participation. At this time VITA can only be offered on Monday night and Saturday. The program is also offered at the Senior Center. Two of those volunteers also help at the library. Next year the two programs may be combined. Felicia hopes to expand the program. Even though one must make an appointment, there has been a line of people waiting outside the door.

**Community Wide Read:** The most recent Community Wide Read, Kindred by Octavia Butler, will wrap up on March 1st. It’s a graphic novel involving time travel. Barbara gave the Board a book review.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2023.

**Agenda for next month:** At the March meeting we will review the facilities use policy and the public programming policy. Felicia will also provide a library services update.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski