Franklin Public Library

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2019

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

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

**Public Comment**: None

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

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Kathleen:** Kathleen shared an article about libraries that offer a course on 50+ dating which is quite popular. The program covers online safety and the reasons to use or not to use certain apps.

**Monique:** Monique inquired about the popularity of the “Library of Things.” She wondered if the Friends of Franklin Library would fulfill some of these needs. Felicia reported that the staff is finalizing a list of items of which they need more, such as the instant pot.

Monique welcomed each new board member and asked each person to introduce herself, describe what role they envision providing and what they hoped to accomplish. Some of the responses include: Amanda is interested in children’s programming, especially the summer programming and involving the schools. Ginette hopes that the middle school library programming will carry over into the high school. There is an initiative to bring the public library to the middle school, classroom by classroom. Some middle school students do not have town library cards. Franklin Public Library gives them library cards and allows them to check out books at middle school, especially hot items that they want to read. Alison is willing to do whatever she can to serve. Amanda noted how important it is to keep people connected to the library as a community.

Monique explained the role of the Friends of Franklin Library and the Franklin Library Association and the mission of each organization. The Board decided to host another tea after the holidays to introduce the new Board members to both groups.

**Library Director:**  The summer reading program was a tremendous success. The Youth Services Department, consisting of two full-time and one part-time staff, provided a strong team with each library staff member providing her unique gifts. This past summer 613 youth signed up for summer programming. Felicia will share more specific detail about the summer programs at the next meeting.

Felicia explained the library survey process conducted last spring. The responses will be incorporated into the strategic plan. She also shared the feedback that the community would like to restore ESL services. They would also like multiple copies in large print and speed read of popular titles.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on October 28, 2019.

**Topics for the next meeting:** At the next meeting we will discuss: strategic planning; assessment by J.Caning on the condition of murals and paintings; requests made to the Friends of Franklin Library to purchase additional items for the Library of Things; punch list progress; names and job descriptions of library staff to inform the new Board members; and an update on the summer reading program.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski