**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**March 28, 2022**

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

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

**Public Comment**: Vicki Earls, Head of Reference and Public Services

Vicki distributed a four-page list of her current job responsibilities and special projects. She reported that the recent article about the missing painting will likely be picked up by Gannett [newspaper company] and distributed nationwide. One special project Vicki is working on involves identifying the names that were missed on the Revolutionary War memorial. She is partnering with Susan Elliott at Dean College.

In October, a special program will be held about the Italian artist Tommaso Juglaris, who painted the murals in the library. He did much of the work on the murals in Italy. Vicki hopes that Dr. Geoff Drutchas, a Juglaris expert, will present at the program.

Vicki shared a story about visitors from Magnolia Heights, an assisted living facility in Franklin. They came for a tour, received library cards, decided to start a book club, and have become active patrons. Felicia may approach other assisted living facilities in the area.

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

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Amanda:** Amanda received a request from the Senior Center to increase the number of books one can download per month on Hoopla to ten.Felicia will make the adjustment.

**Ginette:** A friend of Ginette’s asked about the lack of availability of hot spots. Felicia noted that they must be requested. The library has five hot spots at the present time which are provided by the state. The Board discussed repercussions for those that don’t return hot spots when they’re due. Felicia makes phone calls to ask for them to be returned. Sometimes more serious warnings are necessary.

Ginette attended an art exhibit at the high school and discussed the possibility of displaying art at the library. The art teacher at the exhibit mentioned that the students would likely appreciate the display although it would be important to work out a process to lessen the burden and responsibility for the school faculty. She suggested having the teachers collect the artwork and someone from the library pick up/deliver/hang the artwork and then deliver back to the school once the display period is completed. Next year everyone could put their selected artwork in a collection. Potentially each school could have a designated month. It would need to be cohesive, such as by theme or technique. Volunteers would need to hang the art. The schools should not be responsible for that task. Three board members offered to help hang the art in the Friends’ room.

**Library Board Meeting Guidelines:** The Board discussed the library board bylaws, which will be updated to include number of absences permissible for board members.

**Library Director’s report:**

FY23 Budget: Felicia expects the budget will not change as submitted. From May 9-12th the finance committee meetings will be held. The public documents are not yet available but should be released by mid-April. Felicia will share them at this time.

**Community Outreach/Services:** The Director of the Franklin Health Department has proposed a health fair at the library. It will take place in October with 20 tables outside, including a flu clinic, yoga, gymnastics, smoothie demonstration, and other health awareness topics. Nothing will be sold. The goal is to raise awareness. Charleen suggested a table for books on health-related topics and healthy cooking.

Art Week:Art Week will run through the month of April in the Friends’ room. The organization from Boston which partnered with the library in the past is no longer doing so. No costs can be displayed; however, contact information is acceptable.

Computer Confluence will occur on Saturdays. Mitzi will run it to see if there is interest.

Girls on the Run: Ginette provided information about Girls on the Run, a group which empowers anyone who identifies as a girl to begin running. It would be held in the library. Once a year they hold a 5K. The cost is $225 for the entire program. The group would need to meet twice a week, which requires a space commitment. Felicia suggested the Recreation Department; but they said they tried it once. There were restrictions with the program and one had to follow the Girls on the Run protocol exactly. The board will not recommend this program at this time. The town already has a track/running program.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

**Agenda for next month:** At the next meeting, we will vote on the guidelines for board members.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski