**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**February 25, 2019**

**Present:** Monique Doyle, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Doug Newton and Suzanne Stilgo of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti. Sandi Brandfonbrener was absent.

**Call to Order:** Monique called the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**Public Comment**: None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

**Report of the Board Members**

**Monique:** Monique asked about the private artwork policy. She wondered how one determines the value of individual artwork. Doug suggested that the insurance company has some type of process to determine value.

**Kathleen:** Kathleen shared an article about a library that hosted a “kitty cafe” of cats and kittens available for adoption. Although patrons could not take the animal on that day, they could complete the necessary paperwork and adopt the animal after the paperwork was processed. Kathleen also shared an article from yesterday’s Boston Globe regarding a discussion group for mothers held at a local library. The objective is to provide an evening forum for mothers to share the challenges and concerns of parenting. Felicia reported that such a group was once attempted with limited success. Mother and child groups are more successful.

Kathleen also asked about what happens when someone damages a book. The policy is that even after one pays for a damaged book, one cannot keep it. Felicia related that sometimes "lost" books show up for sale on eBay and the staff must be vigilant.

**Library Director:** The NEDCC report is complete. Monique asked about the qualifications of the library staff to engage in preservation and archival processes. Felicia reported that Vicki and Caleigh are trained in this type of work. In addition, the Town of Franklin has hired a part-time archivist. This person will be shared with the museum and the library. The Board took an initial look at the report. We recommended to Felicia that she confer with the staff to prioritize the recommendations in the report, obtain ballpark pricing from the NEDCC, and then discuss the results with Franklin Library Association.

Felicia mentioned that a patron suggested a professional audio tour about the history, mural, and Benjamin Franklin’s books. Franklin Library Association has offered to look into such a tour.

The Board reviewed the preliminary survey findings. There are still two more months to collect data. Overall it appears that the community is quite satisfied with youth services but work needs to be done with adult programming.

There are two remaining issues on the punch list. Mike is working on cleaning the brick. A new solution which is minimally toxic will be used. There is an issue with the glass doors of the new entrance. They do not close properly; however steps are in process for repair.

Felicia reported that the "Library of Things" has been very popular. They are purchasing additional items to meet demand, such as the "insta pot."

The Board and Felicia discussed plans and responses for the afternoon tea scheduled for March 3rd. Invitations went out to all members of the Friends of the Franklin Library and the Franklin Library Association. So far, there are only six affirmative responses.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2019.

**Topics for the next meeting:** At the next meeting we will discuss the NEDCC report and the surveys.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski