

Bemus Point Library

February 13, 2024 Board Meeting

CTO at 5:33pm by Chair Erika Muecke. In attendance Sharon Chertoff, Val Johnson, Yvonne

Makl, Amy Reed, Librarian Shannon Donovan.

Attendance via zoom: Mary Bosek, Katie Smith/Treasurer.

Correspondence in Public

Sarah Goebel, Friends of the Library (FOL) Discussed that the future FOL is uncertain due to dwindling participation. Sarah is retiring as president, the group needs new leadership, members and ideas. A meeting is scheduled for March 4th, Katie will send out a notice, attendance will determine the future of the group. The FOL has \$3,100 in funds and a check will be sent to the library. Erika extended a thank you and appreciation for all the FOL has done for the library, and members of the board are interested in helping.

Amy volunteered to meet with the PTA and send letters to young moms for interest in the FOL and proposed monthly meetings. She discussed four aspects important to the library. 1. Child and Adult Programs 2. Fundraising 3. Social Media Presence, Website upgrade 4. Events. Event discussed: The April 8 Total Solar Eclipse (3:18pm - will last 24 seconds with a viewing window of 2 hours) Chautauqua County is in the path of totality, a large influx of visitors is expected. Shannon stated the library will be open, we are in a primary location and the restrooms are a public service. The library system will provide a free supply of viewing glasses to be distributed to the public. Cindy and volunteers will be needed to handle anticipated crowds. Sharon suggested having water available to sell.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes reviewed. Motion to approve by Val. Second by Erika. Approved without revision.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Review and discussions: Library received a penalty due notice from NYS of \$668.50 for lapsed disability insurance for the period of 2021-2023. It's unclear how this was overlooked. The policy was written by an agency in Williamsville, NY, our local agent was not involved and was unaware that policy had lapsed. Shelter Point, our NYS disability carrier will reinstate us for premiums due in the amount of \$1,137.10. Discussion of whether to pay past premiums and remain with Shelter Point as the carrier or pay the fine and go with a new carrier. One concern raised was the possibility of a past claim arising in the future, a recommendation was made to pay the overdue premiums as the best option despite the higher amount. Erika motioned for a vote, all present in person voted in favor of paying the premiums, remote members not eligible to vote. Funds will come out of the miscellaneous category in the budget. Our local agent will handle going forward, Katie to follow up.

Sharon inquired about funding streams. CRCF (Chautauqua Regional Community Foundation) and Sheldon Foundation are two local organizations we can approach. Donna Vanstrom has agreed to write grant requests for exterior building repairs. If/when awarded, we will work with TriState Restoration Co., Westfield, to determine the scope of the project. Board agreed to proceed with grant applications. Motion to approve report by Sharon, second by Amy.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Circulation is down from Jan.'23, although the number of patrons visiting the library, overdrive use and storytime attendance are all up. Typically, circulation is highest in the summer months. Book Talk with author Wendy Lewellen "Good Soles CHQ Rails to Trails" went well, 6 attended and all purchased books. Storytime with Sophia (therapy dog) date/time change to 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10:30, beginning March 9th.

Library Annual Report (44 pgs.) is ready for completion, but requires appointment of a Board VP, now that we have a full board. The position must be filled for the annual report to be complete. Erika will reach out to board members.

Shannon is on vacation 2/23-2/27. Cindy will cover.

OLD BUSINESS

Amy advocated that the library needs updating and visual improvements to be recreated as a hub of the community. She proposed 2 projects to accomplish this; enlargement of children's area which can be done by moving bookshelves, and a refresh of the foyer by painting, furniture rearrangement and updating the wall décor with historical photos and artwork to create a more welcoming entrance. Erika responded that all were good ideas. There is money in the budget. Monday 2/19 was chosen to do this as the library is closed for the President's Day holiday.

NEW BUSINESS

Sharon: discussed the need fundraising events other than the 4th of July fundraiser. She made a proposal of a fundraiser the last weekend in May, in collaboration with Ellicottville Brewing Co. with donations, gift baskets etc... that would draw in the local community, before the summer crowds arrive. The July fundraiser would have a broader focus to include things that would appeal to visitors. She suggested an article in the Villager, and requesting donations of unwanted gift cards. Also noted that last year, many visitors wanted to donate through Venmo and suggested we investigate obtaining a library account. She indicated a follow up with the owner of the EBC.

Because we now have a full board, we must fill the vice president position to complete and submit the Library Annual Report. Erika to follow up.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Adjourned: 6:35pm.

Submitted:

Mary Bosek

Yvonne Makl