

Friends of Brooks Memorial Library
Minutes of Board Meeting, via Zoom, March 16, 2022

Participants: Joyce Marcel, Sue Dyer, Sharon Meyers, Amity DeAngelis, Connie Kimball, Diane Leary, Karen Duggan, Sirkka Kauffman (for the Trustees), and Starr Latronica, Jeni Clary and Jeanne Walsh (for the library).

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm.

The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report was accepted and will be filed for audit. Our balance as of February 28, 2022, was \$61,446.64.

The proposed 2022-23 budget of \$36,540 was accepted and will be recommended at the Annual Meeting in May.

Connie recommended that we consider investing some of our money in an "I-Bond," which pays an interest rate based on the Consumer Price Index. We voted to invest \$10,000 in this form of bond. Connie will email more specific information.

President's report

Joyce reported that the Humanities Council lowered the fee for First Wednesdays to \$1800 because of fewer in-person events.

We have given each library employee a gift card to Amy's Bakery for their help with the book sale. We have done the same for Betsy Wagenknecht, Mary Ide and Therese Marcy.

Our Finance committee (Joyce, Connie, Diane, and Sharon) and Nominating Committee (Sue and Karen) will be meeting soon.

Special book collection

We voted to send our special book collection to New England Auction in Greenfield, MA. Joyce, Karen, and Sharon will box up the books and arrange for delivery.

Memorial bench

We decided that we will not take on Helene Henry's memorial bench as a Friends' project.

Library report

Starr reported that business is booming at the library.

- Masks are still required, because staff work closely with patrons in small spaces, and we have young patrons.
- One of Faith Ringgold's Tar Beach quilts is on loan from Nancy Braus and will be up (high) in the Main Room soon.
- The Eileen Christelow library card, activity kits and books are a big hit. An article about her contributions and the library's plans appeared this week in *The Reformer*.
- We voted to fund "Welcome Baby" – a Children's Room project involving bags, books, and bookmarks – for \$800.
- We also voted to purchase a \$450 season's pass to Next Stage's "Bandwagon" but asked that the library request patrons to limit themselves to one use per season so that many can benefit.

Our Annual Meeting will be held at our usual monthly meeting day and time: Wednesday, May 18th, at 4:30 pm. We hope to be able to hold it in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Duggan

Addendum: In early April we voted to make Connie the person in charge of the I-Bond; she purchased it in the name of the library on April 6, 2022.