

MINUTES  
OF THE JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING  
OF  
THE BERNARDSVILLE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, INC.

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bernardsville Library Foundation was held via Zoom call on January 9, 2024, beginning at 6:30 pm.

The following trustees attended the meeting: Jamie Bertoni, Al Briand, Bernie Briand, Patrice Cummings, Shikha Mayer, Michael Myers, Rob Re, Germaine McGrath, Justin Lynch, Kat Zielinski and Anne Reilly. Matthew Manathara, Roni Larini and Debbie Heimerl were absent.

1. WELCOME

Chairperson Cummings opened the meeting at approximately 6:30 pm and provided a State of the Foundation report. Chairperson Cummings commented on all the positive work that was accomplished over 2023 and her excitement for building on the Foundation's work in 2024. Also, the following Trustees will be leaving the BLF for 2024, this meeting being their last: Bernie Briand, Al Briand, Matthew Manathara, Germaine McGrath and Rob Re.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MEETING

Minutes of the December 12, 2023 meeting were emailed to the Trustees prior to the January meeting. Mr. Re motioned to accept the minutes; Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. The December 12, 2023 minutes were approved by all Trustees present.

***Chairperson Cummings then made a motion to accept Aimee Watts as a new Trustee of the Foundation, having been introduced to the BLF at the December meeting. Mr. Re seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Welcome Aimee!!***

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Reilly delivered the Treasurer's Report, having sent the full financial package to the Trustees prior to the meeting. Total revenue for December was \$28,525.62 and Expenses for the month totaled \$3,944.27.

Endowment Fund revenue totaled \$66,692.78, which includes the movement of \$30,000 from the BLF Operating Account to the Endowment account, in accordance with the discussions conducted during the November 2023 BLF Trustees meeting. Expenses totaled \$0.03 for the month of December, for a total Net Income for December of \$66,692.75. Following a question raised by Mr. Lynch, the Trustees then discussed the discrepancy between the Peapack Private December Account Report, and the balance shown on the financials. Following the discussion, it was agreed to defer approval of the December financials until such time as the discrepancy could be sorted out in consultation with the BLF's account and bring the various reports into alignment.

#### 4. LIBRARY UPDATE

Library Director Mary Fran Daley provided the following report: i) thank you to the BLF for all its efforts in 2023; ii) progress is being made on the Capital Plan for the Library; iii) wonderful programming during the month of December, including a Jazz concert; iv) Jesse will be leaving the Library to pursue other opportunities, but Becky will be filling in that role; v) had more than 80,000 visitors in 2023 and 50 programs (which is double what our peer libraries did in 2019); vi) NY Times offering is being actively utilized; vii) BoT Finance Committee making good progress with Borough on budget discussions; and viii) Fran solicited feedback from anyone willing to provide it concerning how the Library is doing (Fran noted that she has heard some comments from a few patrons that programming is not ideal and a departure from year's past, however, much of this is being heard second hand).

#### 4. VISITORS

- a. Library Board of Trustees: Nancy Verduin reported that the BoT Finance Committee met with the Borough Finance Committee and while discussions were good, there is likely to be a shortfall in funding again for 2024. She noted the BoT's appreciation for all the BLF does. Working on the Capital budget and how funds may ultimately be used.
- b. Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library:

Nancy Verduin provided the following report of upcoming events: Mini-golf event is main focus right now and it is moving along nicely, including a donation of bikes that will be raffled; should be a great event. Also, responses to the Campaign Letter are coming along as expected and in line with goals.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance: No Report.
- b. Investment: No Report.
- c. Fundraising: Ms. Mayer reported that she is putting together the raffle baskets in support of the Friends Mini-golf event.
- d. Nominating: Ms. Bertoni reported on the slate of Officer nominations for 2024 as follows: Patrice Cummings (Chair); Shikha Mayer (Vice-Chair); Anne Reilly (Secretary); Michael Myers (Treasurer). Ms. Bertoni moved for acceptance of the proposed slate of Officers. Mr. Re seconded the motion. Unanimous approval from all Trustees. Congratulations to the 2024 Officers!
- e. Membership: Chairperson Cummings reported that she has had discussions with Karen Brodsky as a potential new member to the BLF Trustees and Ms. Brodsky has indicated a willingness to join. She will join the March Trustee meeting, but in the interim, is willing to be an advisor on the Strategic Planning. All Trustees agreed that this would be beneficial.
- f. Publicity, Social Media: Ms. McClester reminded the Trustees to get their bios in for the website.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

7. OLD BUSINESS: None.

8. NEW BUSINESS: None.

The next meeting will be held February 13, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Cummings at 7:31 pm.