Board of Trustees
of the Blauvelt Free Library
September 24, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Michael Andrea.

PRESENT: Kerry Beckmann, Maria Ceci, Dan Danner, Debbie Gallagher, Lisa Honig-Andrea, Claire Morrissey, Sal Pagnani, Joan Ready, Donald Syko, and Maria Valentino.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Alice Ryan

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2024 meeting was made by Kerry Beckmann, and seconded by Sal Pagnani. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Joan Ready reported. Complete Treasurer's report is attached for June, July, and August, 2024. Board members asked questions regarding some of the line items and J. Ready explained in detail.

Motion to accept the June, 2024 Treasurer's report was made by Dan Danner, and seconded by Debbie Gallagher. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the July, 2024 Treasurer's report was made by Sal Pagnani, and seconded by Kerry Beckmann. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept the August, 2024 Treasurer's report was made by Donald Syko, and seconded by Sal Pagnani. Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Claire Morrissey reported. The Koha database was implemented and up and running on August 5, 2024. The summer programs were popular and well attended thanks to the weekly e-blasts on social media, as well as the printed monthly events calendar. The book display table and library catalog computer station have increased patron interest, and they love it. The BFL newsletter will be mailed out 3 times per year, with the first one (Fall/Winter) mailed out to patrons the 3rd week in August; the next will be Winter/Spring (December) and Summer (May);

increase in registration for programs have increased; Board discussion ensued regarding the mailing. We launched the new website at the end of August and the feedback has been positive. We also launched Hoopla, an e-resource site where movies, audio books, e-books and music can be accessed from anywhere; Board discussion ensued. Alice Ryan is working hard to get the Friends of the Library member numbers up; Over 100 tickets were sold for the Friends of the Library Summer Vacation raffle basket; the next event will be a wine and cheese night on September 26th. Winter hours at the library resumed on Sunday, September 22nd, and operating hours are from 11am-3pm. The lighting in the front and back of the library were repaired and the lights were replaced with LEDs, as were the lights in the Behringer reading room, and timers were put in place. The storage room has been completely cleaned up. Notary numbers are up. Circulation is steady. There were 46 Adult program sessions. Ninety patrons participated in the eight-week summer reading program. In September we held eleven sessions, and they have been well attended. Donald Syko advised the board that some of the links on the website open new pages and some open up on the same page; he also mentioned that there is no picture of the library and perhaps more pictures should be added in the section of the library history; Board discussion ensued regarding outside groups using the all-purpose room. Kerry Beckmann brought in old phone directories of Blauvelt residents.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Included in the Director's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Website Update – Discussed in the Director's Report

Hoopla Implementation Update – Discussed in the Director's Report

Eagle Scout Project Dedication – Mike Andrea advised the board that he maintained the garden over the summer; once the plaque is ready, we will have a dedication day; Board discussion ensued regarding the sprinkler system that no longer works in that area.

Lion's Club Electric Board – Kerry Beckmann indicated that nothing has been done yet.

Filling Board of Trustees Member Vacancy – Kerry Beckmann passed along a resume of someone who is interested in joining the Board as a Trustee; Mike Andrea spoke with this potential candidate and gave the board a brief overview of her resume. Board discussion ensued.

Motion to appoint Kathleen Lacker as a Trustee was made by Kerry Beckmann, and seconded by Sal Pagnani. Motion passed unanimously.

General Maintenance – Discussed in the Director's Report

2025 Budget Proposal to Town of Orangetown – Claire Morrissey and Debbie Gallagher attended the meeting with the Town, and it went well. Mike Andrea explained how the

process works after the Board approves our funding to Claire Morrissey. Board discussion ensued.

Re-Opening on Sundays – Discussed in the Director's Report. Claire Morrissey mentioned that one additional person was hired for Sundays and there will be a rotation schedule for all the employees.

Trustee Training – There will be a two-hour Trustee training in the library on October 30th. RCLS sent out an email with their training schedule. Lisa Honig-Andrea mentioned that she attended an online NYS Library training session and asked if any other Trustee has done any of these training sessions. Board discussion ensued.

Thrift Shop – Mike Andrea asked Debbie Gallagher about her volunteer work at the thrift shop, and she said she continues to volunteer two to three days a week. Claire Morrissey indicated that she would add them to the website and to our mailing/e-blast.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Holiday Calendar for 2025 – Claire Morrissey put together a list of 2025 Holiday Closings for the board to review. The dates on the list are consistent with what other library closings are.

Motion to accept additional library holiday closings of Columbus Day, 2024 and Veterans Day 2024, was made by Lisa Honig-Andrea, and seconded by Dan Danner. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

A motion for adjournment of the Public meeting, was made at 7:48PM by Marie Ceci, and seconded by Kerry Beckmann. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 7:00 PM.