

## **Minutes of the April 27, 2021 RFRR Board meeting**

Kathleen Riegelhaupt called the meeting to order at 7:32.

### *Consent Agenda*

The consent agenda includes the minutes of the March meeting and the financials. Nicole Cunningham moved to accept the consent agenda. Sarah Wise Miller seconded. All approved the motion.

### *President's Report*

Kathleen discussed the possibility of moving from zoom meetings to a hybrid format. Chris tested a hybrid meeting last week and did not have good results. More study on this needs to be done. For the present the meetings will continue on zoom. Kathleen turned the floor over to Katy Finger. Katy announced that she would be leaving the Board since she and her family are moving to New Orleans in June. She hoped to serve as long as she could and thanked all for her experience with RFRR. Kathleen thanked her for all her good work on the Board and on the Auxiliary Board through the years.

### *Staff Reports*

Chris reported that the library had co-hosted with 5 other libraries an author talk by Isabel Wilkerson through CURE that was very well attended. There was a 2% return on the National Library Week appeal to Novel Night participants and a 9% return on the appeal to lapsed donors. The furniture in the Children's Room has been rearranged. The library is seeking a new business manager and Chris asked if anyone had any useful contacts. It is difficult to compare the stats for first quarter 2021 with 2020 so Chris included the end of 2020 as well. They show growing comfort level for returning to the library. The materials added is the biggest drag because the vendor, Baker & Taylor, has been very slow. Chris is pursuing other options. Chris presented the Free Direct Access Plan which is required by New York State. It outlines how the RFRR will provide library service to those without a library. A new section gives the library the ability to give preference on materials and space to its own patrons. RFRR has no contracts to provide service to other groups nor is there excessive borrowing from other groups. Our main users are Rye residents. All libraries must vote on this and then the WLS board will approve its adoption.

Sarah moved to approve the plan and Jan Kelsey seconded. All approved.

Catherine Riedel described the new propagation station for plants which will have 18 containers. It will operate like the seed collection. The teen librarian organized a “Community Clue” event based on the board game. Twenty-seven families (75 people) participated. Participants had to seek clues from various local businesses to solve the mystery. It was a very popular event.

There has been very positive feedback on the rearrangement of the furniture in the Children’s Room. Plans are being made for summer outdoor programs.

#### *Auxiliary Board*

Lina and Grace reported that the Auxiliary Board is looking into different possibilities for Novel Night. They sent out a survey and found that about two-thirds of responders would be comfortable with a party but not comfortable hosting one. It seems like the best approach is to have a smaller event than in the past with no after-party in September when the weather would permit outdoor parties. Ted Burdick commented that this seemed like a good interim solution since it provided for good outreach. It is a return to Novel Night’s origins. Kathleen thanked the Auxiliary Board for all its work on planning a new Novel Night. The slate of new Auxiliary Board members was presented. Sarah moved to approve the slate and Katy Finger seconded. All approved.

#### *Committee Reports*

Kathleen reported that Nominating Committee chair Emilie Reddoch was ill and that committee would report at the next Board meeting. She then gave the report of the Strategic Planning Committee. She reviewed the existing strategic plan and its implementation. The library will continue under this plan for another year. Sarah commented that given the extraordinary challenges of the past year, the library had done quite well. She commended the staff on their good work.

#### *Board Discussion*

Kathleen asked Chris to review the talking points and board dashboard. Chris reported that more patrons are coming into the library. Kathleen asked about what capacity was like if a patron came in without an appointment. Chris said that for just browsing or sitting there was no problem but it was tight for study spaces. Katy asked if materials were still being quarantined. Chris said that WLS has advised stopping that practice which will mean that books etc. will get to patrons faster. Sarah wondered if there was still interest by patrons in book pick-up. Chris said that they were looking into using express holds to expedite the process. They plan to eliminate the use of paper bags and just use tape with the patron’s name instead.

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*Mission Moments*

Chris reported that there will be a Battle of the Books this year. The interest meeting is in May. Over 50 people have registered for classical music on the Village Green.

*New Business*

Kathleen requested that the Board go into Executive Session for a labor discussion. Sarah so moved and Katy seconded. All approved. The Board went into Executive Session at 8:20 PM.

The Board left Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

There being no further business, Kathleen suggested that the meeting be adjourned. Sarah so moved and was seconded by Jan. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31.

**Action : The Board Approve the April meeting minutes**