

Minutes of the July 20, 2021 RFRR Board meeting

Kathleen Riegelhaupt began the meeting at 7:37. A quorum was not present.

Director's Report

Chris reported that the text was all set for the annual appeal brochure and mailings. The Rye Watershed festival in September would wrap up before CliffNotes! A children's book festival with book sales and author signings is scheduled for Sunday October 9. The library's book sale has been rescheduled for September 19 but may need to be rescheduled to the spring. For the quarterly stats Chris presented 2019 stats because 2020 stats skewed everything because of library closures during COVID. Ted asked about the time people were spending in the library. Chris said that that was increasing and should continue to go up since the seating arrangement has been changed from the COVID arrangement. There is an issue with Baker & Taylor regarding receiving new books. The library is also working with Ingram to improve this. Chris is pleased at the way the stats are rebounding. The door count is increasing. Lina asked about the sight lines in the Children's Room. The re-arrangement of the furniture has improved this. Kathleen asked if new card holders who used digital access have stayed with us. The stats seem to reflect this.

Catherine reported that the Passport to India held last weekend was a big success. Over 175 people attended. There was a dance troupe, henna tattoos, food etc. Many Indian residents commented how proud they were. Teen outdoor programming is picking up. The children's beach storytime had 45 participants.

There now being a quorum, Kathleen called the meeting to order at 7:50. No one from the public was in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consists of the minutes of the June meeting and the June financials. Daire Brown moved to accept the consent agenda. Ted Burdick seconded. All approved.

President's Report

Kathleen described the policy review process that the board will begin in September. The goal is to gradually review all the library's existing policies. To begin, 3 policies (Space Use, Code of Conduct and Programming) will be assigned to 3 trustees who will review them and present their recommendations to the board. Daire suggested that it would be useful to know the types of issues/challenges that have come up on each of the policies under review. Chris said that

they were driven primarily by 3 things: homeless people for the Code of Conduct; collection development on gender for K - 9 year olds; and free speech for use of public meeting space.

Auxiliary Board

Lina reported that so far CliffNotes! has raised \$27,000. Forty-five of the donors are new. Eleven parties are set. Tickets will be sold at Rye's sidewalk sale. There are still some issues to be decided including party themes, whether to increase the ticket price after July, when to deliver the party destination information. Seven or eight of the hosts want to do Novel Night next year (October 29, 2022). Grace reported that there was an article in the Rye Record about CliffNotes! The Rye Historical Society is having an author tour at the Knapp House on the same day but it should be wrapped up by the afternoon.

Development

The theme is open and transformed. The library is even better than before, highlighting what we learned during the pandemic. The mailing should arrive the Monday after CliffNotes!

Mission Moments

Lina asked if more cultural events like the Passport to India were planned. Catherine commented that the library would work with the Indian Cultural Center again. Chris reported that they are also working with a Japanese group in Harrison and a Korean group on future programming.

Upcoming events include CliffNotes!, Summer Olympics on the Village Green and the ice cream social. Chris asked for teens to help with sorting books for the book sale scheduled for September 19 & 20. An art benefit will be held on October 2. Ellen Liman has donated her art collection for sale and the proceeds will benefit the library.

2022 Budget

Kathleen reported that it was time to submit the library's annual request for funding from the city. We usually request a 2 - 3% increase to cover personnel costs. She felt that we could make a good case for the increase because of the stability of labor costs due to the new contract, the PPP loans etc. In May 2024 the union health care costs will unfreeze. We might need to get increases ahead of time so that we aren't slammed by a big hit then. Nicole moved that the board authorize the executive committee to submit the 2022 preliminary budget request to the city. Ted seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Ted moved that the board go into executive session. Nicole seconded. All approved. The board went into executive session at 8:15. The board came out of executive session at 8:36.

Nicole moved that the board approve the management compensation that had been discussed in executive session. Daire seconded. All approved.

There being no further business, Nicole moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ted seconded. All approved. The meeting ended at 8:37.

Action : The Board Approve the July meeting minutes