

Minutes of the October 26, 2021 RFRR Board meeting

Kathleen Riegelhaupt called the meeting to order at 7:37. One member of the public was in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consists of the minutes of the September meeting, the September financials and the approval of three new members for the Auxiliary Board: Adrienne Chen, Kiren Patel, and Cristina Wade. Sarah Wise Miller moved to accept the consent agenda and Nicole Cunningham seconded the motion. All approved.

President's Report

Kathleen gave an update on the policy review project. Sarah and Ted Burdick have agreed to review 3 policies: space use, code of conduct and programming. They will report to the Board in January.

Director's Report

Chris is preparing for the budget presentation to the city in early November. He reported that the library had received \$4,750 from the Old Oaks Charity for information literacy programming. Six responses to the RFP for the architect/space planning have been received. The committee will review them next week. It is hoped to have the plan done by the annual meeting. The boiler has been repaired. The sheetrock is up in the children's room and the tile is being installed next week. The target reopening date for the children's room is November 15. It may be necessary to close for one day to move books in preparation for the reopening. There will be a small ceremony celebrating the reopening. Messaging on the one page mailer to donors includes flood images and the message that the library is planning improvements to avoid future service disruptions (i.e. flooding). The third quarter stats are better than last year but behind 2019 levels. They reflect the impact of the closure of the children's room. The library has been able to do some teacher training for the Rye schools. There is still an issue with receiving materials.

Staff Reports

Catherine Riedel reported that the library is partnering with Rye Town Park, Rye Arts Center, Edith Read Sanctuary and Rye Nature Center to create and maintain the Rye Poetry Path. There are two new adult book groups. Attendance is down in the teen space because of closure of the children's room. Sarah is planning a welcome back event for the teens once the space is again available to them. Samantha goes on maternity leave on November 8. The PumpkinPaloosa, which was co-sponsored by the Rye Historical Society, was a success with 167 people attending. There is currently a hold on ordering new materials for the children's room. A plan for replacing the books lost because of the flood will be developed.

Auxiliary Board

Lina Eroh reported that planning for Novel Night 2022 has begun. Two chairs are on board. Shenorock has been booked for October 29. The Vehicle Fair will take place in May on the Village Green.

Development Committee

Jill requested that board members write thank you notes to donors. There were a large number of donations in September.

Nominating Committee

Emilie Reddoch reported that there are 3 candidates ready to move forward. There is still a possible fourth opening if there is another nominee. The board will vote in November or December.

Rye TV

Chris has been in discussion with the city which has drafted an initial MOU on RFRR's take over of some aspects of Rye TV. He has provided the city with some changes to be made including a provision to allow the library to opt out of the agreement. He has not yet seen the revised MOU. Sarah asked about the pros and cons of the arrangement. Chris said that it provided another library service element since the video equipment would circulate. The library is not responsible for running classes. That is the responsibility of the Rye Arts Center. It is also an additional platform to broadcast our own content. The city would permit the library to use their contracted people so no additional staffing would be required. Chance will be the point person for the library. A discussion of the funding and the use of PEG grant funds to replace needed equipment ensued. Sarah made a motion that the board authorize the Director or Executive Committee to execute the MOU with the city provided no material changes are made to the MOU as presented. Emilie seconded. All approved.

Mission Moments

Kathleen pointed out that the reopening of the children's room provided good talking points for the annual campaign. Upcoming events include the spelling bee and the parenting program on helping children and teens cope with anxiety. Both are on November 11.

There being no further business Sarah moved to close the meeting. Ted seconded, all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37.

Action: The Board Approve the September 2021 meeting minutes
