



Minutes of the September 28, 2021 RFRR Board meeting

Kathleen Riegelhaupt called the meeting to order at 7:35. No members of the public were in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the minutes of the July meeting, July/August financials, and approval of a new member of the Auxiliary Board, Diana Giannasca. Francis Jenkins moved to accept the consent agenda. Jackie Cohen seconded. All approved the motion.

President's Report

The policy review will be postponed for a month. There are two policies on this meeting's agenda: NY HERO Act Plan and the Conflict of Interest Policy. All Boards members should sign the Conflict of Interest Policy. As this is the first meeting since the flood, Kathleen wanted to thank Chris, Catherine and their entire team for all their work to continue to provide services for children. Thanks to the Auxiliary Board for running both the book sale and Cliffnotes!, and thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the post-flood clean-up and the book sale.

Director's Report

Chris reported that the Annual Campaign mailing should hit mail boxes by this coming Thursday. The budget process with the City is in the discussion phase. No date has yet been set for the presentation to the City. Chris presented the NY HERO Act plan which is a safety plan to mitigate the effects of an airborne illness crisis when the Governor declares an airborne illness emergency. This plan covers association libraries like RFRR. Public libraries fall under another plan. The plan outlines various cleaning and masking policies which are basically the same as the ones we have been doing. Our union is not concerned about this plan. The Board is required to approve the plan. Matt Anderson moved for the plan's approval and Sarah Wise seconded. All approved.

The library has opened its first art show since the pandemic and others are planned. After delays Baker & Taylor have finally started delivering many new books. Sara, the teen librarian, is the chair of the Battle of the Books which took place this summer. She will be going to the high school and the middle school to assist the school librarians. Children's librarian Michelle is offering a Hispanic Heritage story hour. All the surviving books from the Children's Room are upstairs and programs are being held in the meeting room.

Auxiliary Board

Lina Eroh reported that the book sale was very successful. It raised over \$7,000. She felt that running the sale for two days definitely helped. There were lots of volunteers, particularly high school students. Cliffnotes! sold 425 tickets raising close to \$80,000. There were 11 parties.

Next year Novel Night will be on October 22 and Shenorock has already been booked. There was a lot of positive feedback about the Cliffnotes! format. Many enjoyed staying in one place longer. Lina felt that we ought to consider doing Cliffnotes! again in the off years since it raised a good amount of money and didn't cost much. It did require a lot of manpower this year because of the private parties. Of the tickets sold 130 were sold to new donors. People are excited to host next year.

Nominating Committee

Emilie reported that they have 3 strong candidates. They are still looking for additional names. The slate will be voted on in November.

Development Committee

Kathleen reported that the mailer was ready to go out.

Building & Grounds Committee

Chris provided an update on the short term remediation. All drywall and wood has been removed from the Children's Room and the workroom. Carpeting has also been removed. A one day closure will be necessary to make electrical repairs to the elevator which necessitates shutting down the main electricity to the building. Ductwork repairs have begun and the sewage ejection pumps are being worked on. Insurance covers HVAC, elevator, sewage etc. Chris is awaiting quotes on drywall repair and tile work.

Kathleen reported that a committee has been formed to review possible options for the children's room. We had planned on doing a renovation there next year. The committee favored retaining a space planner to look at all spaces with an eye to possibly moving the children's room. Francis commented that we had recently completed a capital campaign. The children's room was the final piece since it had last been renovated in 2001. There is currently a great deal of good will in the community to support the library even though other community organizations such as the Y will also be seeking funds. We must get the children's room back up and running as soon as possible even as we seek other options. Chris said that the insurance would cover making the children's room functional again. Francis asked if we had the funds for repairs and for a space planner. Ted said the space planner could be paid from cash on hand.

Kathleen called for a motion that the Board authorize the Executive Committee to hire a space planner for an amount not to exceed \$75,000 to study the possible options for the children's room in the existing space or somewhere else. Sara so moved and Matt seconded. All approved.

Mission Moments

Chris provided some language for declining the gift of books to the library. Most are not usable for the library and it is expensive to dispose of them. Francis asked if we couldn't just take them

for the goodwill value. Jackie commented that people might be annoyed if it looked like we were throwing away their donations. Best not to accept them in the first place.

Chris pointed out some notable upcoming events including Ellen Liman's art show and the Children's Book Fair.

There being no further business, Kathleen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Daire so moved and Sara seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Action: The Board Approve the September 2021 meeting minutes