

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BERKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

June 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were Chairperson Carla Ross-Lyman, Trustee Paula Dugan, Library Director Carol Buote, Friends of the Library President Catherine Charette, and Secretary Linda Andrade Rodrigues. Trustee Megan Silva was absent. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

The Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2024 was read and approved. Paula Dugan motioned, Carla Ross-Lyman seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE:            Carla Ross-Lyman    AYE

                    Paula Dugan            AYE

### **CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT**

The Children's Room has been busy this period with the following programs and events:

Weekly Story Time programs with stories and simple crafts for 16 preschool-age children. Craft materials were funded by the Friends of the Library;

Weekly VolunTEENS programs for 21 youths ages 12 to 17 who volunteer to help with a variety of library tasks;

Writing Circle programs, for ages 12+. Twelve gathered to write and share;

Dr. Rosie's vet clinic was a great program provided by the library as a free event. Fifty six kids had lots of fun learning to care for their stuffed animals;

Craft night with 12 attendees worked on creating friendship jewelry and crochet.

The summer reading program will run from June 22 through August 23. Mr. Vinny's Bubble Show will kick off summer reading on Saturday, June 22 at 1 p.m. They have received many donations for raffle prizes.

The latest stats for juvenile and young adult circulating show 884 in April and 948 in May.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

For the June book club meeting, 9 attendees discussed "*Then She Was Gone*" by Lisa Jewell. The book was relatively well liked. They selected "*A Simple Favor*" by Darcey Bell for the July 3 meeting.

The Knot Just Knitting meetings in May had 12 participants.

Virtual Trivia met on May 18 with 18 participants.

The adult book displays this month are "Self Care is Always in Style" and "Center for the Book Reading Challenge book suggestions – Book and movie combos".

There continues to be issues with the alarm system batteries. There are recalls on some of the units, and they will be replaced as soon as possible; but in the meanwhile, they have Stephen coming in to fix them.

They plan to purchase four additional stackable chairs for the Children's Room using state aid funds in FY25.

Carol Buote attended a Department Head meeting and the Annual Town Meeting.

The library staff is trying to fit in their vacation and personal days before the end of the fiscal year. Carol Buote will be covering the desk a lot during the coming month.

### **FRIENDS' REPORT**

The Friends met on May 20, 2024.

Their Matching Grant campaign was a success with donations totaling \$11,973. Ten thousand dollars was matched by the generous team at Bristol Wealth Group,

thanks to their partnership. The coin collection cards brought in \$260, and the younger patrons enjoyed feeling part of their campaign. Hopefully, they can utilize these cards again in the future.

The Friends are collecting cans and bottles at the transfer station for June with the exception of June 19, which is the Juneteenth holiday, and June 29. Thanks to Megan!

They are also working on fundraiser ideas for the rest of the year, such as a gift basket raffle, restaurant fundraiser and tables at functions on the Common.

Anyone interested in joining their Friends group is encouraged to attend their meetings which are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the library. Reach out at any time with questions or concerns.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The library's FY25 budget had drastic cuts. Their barebones budget request of \$183,784 was cut by \$9,500 to \$174,284. This was a 5-percent cut from what they requested. The good news is that it exceeds the MAR figure that they need to stay certified, but they need \$35,000 for materials (i.e. books) to maintain their certification. They have \$22,000, which is a deficit of \$13,000. Carol Buote plans to use their state aid money for some material purchases. They may get some donations for books during the year, and she will use that as well. She is confident that they can maintain certification this year.

### **NEW LIBRARY/BUILDING PROJECT**

For the Construction Grant process, they had two Construction Committee meetings. Carol Buote deposited the necessary funds into the Library Donations account. They submitted the application and mailed the necessary documents, as well as developed a presentation for Town Meeting, which went well. The Article passed!

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Celebration Committee is planning to host a festival on the Common on Saturday, September 14.

**ADJOURN**

Paula Dugan made a motion at 7:50 p.m. to Adjourn to Executive Session—not to return to open session. Carla Ross-Lyman seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE:        Carla Ross-Lyman    AYE

              Paula Dugan            AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Andrade Rodrigues