**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**September 25, 2023**

**Present**: Charleen Belcher, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele, Alison Wallace of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti.

**Call to Order**: Charleen called the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Public Comment**: None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Barbara:** Barbara inquired about the library souvenir booklets. Felicia reported they are being printed now.

**Kathleen:** Kathleen suggested the library purchase a second rug shampoo machine for the Library of Things. The existing one is constantly in circulation.

**Charleen:** Charleen shared postings from the Minuteman Library Network requesting other libraries’ policies regarding late pick-ups of children. Felicia said with the popularity of cell phones, it is rarely an issue in at the Franklin Public Library.

**Public Comment Policy**: The Board approved the final draft of the public comment policy.

**Programming Update**: The partnership between the FPL and the Dean College Library has been evolving. The first step was to learn about the services provided by each, and how they can collaborate. Mitzi attended the first meeting. Dean didn’t realize how much FPL had to offer. They had a tour which was very successful. The first plan is for Dean to host a choral group at the library for families. On Friday, December 1st the FPL will host an art and theatre program with Dean College and the Franklin Cultural Association.

**Summer Reading Wrap-Up:** 773 children and 115 adults completed the summer reading program. Next year the FPL hopes to increase these numbers due to a partnership with ECDC. Charleen suggested that FPL explore opportunities to attend curriculum nights and open houses at the town’s elementary schools.

Fall programming highlights include “trunk a treat”, a ghost and legends event with Jeff Belanger, and a Diwali celebration.

Minuteman Library Network will be launching a new catalog; but it’s been delayed.

ESL training has been conducted by watching an online webinar. Felicia identified an ESL teacher who teaches ESL for a profession. She will offer an evening and an afternoon training once she completes an updated training herself.

FPL has reached out to the newcomers at the Best Western by bringing books, puzzles and games to children and adults. Additional plans are underway for non-English speaking newcomers.

**Library Staff update:** All 11 library staff members are now full-time. Interviewing will begin soon for the Library Assistant position. There are 25 applicants.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on October 23, 2023.

**Agenda for next month:** At the October meeting we will discuss theDean partnership, ESL update, and a library services update.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski