**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**February 26, 2024**

**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 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**: None

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

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Kathleen:** Kathleen noted that the links do not work in the Franklin Public Library News & Events emails. Felicia said she will remove the inactive links. The town is planning to launch a new website soon which will improve the user experience.

Kathleen also shared an idea for adult programming from the Cranston Public Library in Rhode Island. Attendees can learn to make paper flowers from 5 pieces of paper.

**Barbara:** Barbara publicly acknowledged that Kathleen does an excellent job on the minutes. Barbara also volunteered to demonstrate how to create felt roses for napkin rings.

Barbara attended an architectural tour of the Boston Public Library. She observed a section of adult books covered in brown paper. They serve as a mystery read. Felicia shared that the Franklin Public Library has tried this idea in the past.

**Amanda:** Amanda wished to put on record that her children have been coming to the Franklin Public Library from age zero through 5th grade. Her son no longer has an Individual Education Plan thanks to Caleigh’s youth programs which instill a love of reading.

**Charleen:** Charleen shared an Instagram post where someone posted that the Boston Public Library was the first public library in America. Another person posted a detailed correction stating that the Franklin Public Library held that honor. Charleen commented on the correction by identifying herself and stating she approved the message.

Charleen attended the February meeting of the Friends of Franklin Library. She shared some of their activities. The fudge sale earned $473. The Friends may host an appreciation event for the library staff during National Library Week.

**Library Director’s Report**:

The FY25 library budget has been prepared and submitted at level service. The FY25 townwide budget will be discussed at the Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting on March 6th.

Mitzi has been doing an exceptional job with building adult programs. This is a challenging process as parents are so busy and are often reluctant to take time for their own enjoyment. The chocolate program brought in 27 people. The VITA program numbers have been increasing, saving patrons the cost of H&R Block.

The Youth Services department has experienced a disruptive patron over the past several years. The issues have escalated to a point where formal action may be necessary. A detail document has been drafted, and will be submitted if necessary to the appropriate town officials for review and next steps.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2024.

**Agenda for next month:** At the next meeting we will receive a library services, programming, and staff update.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski