

Croton Free Library Association
2017 Annual Meeting
April 25, 2017
Ottinger Room, Croton Free Library, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

MINUTES OF CROTON FREE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
April 25, 2017

Marianne Merola, Outgoing President of the Croton Free Library Association, called the meeting to order at 7:10 by sharing the poem "Famous" by Naomi Shihab Nye in honor of April being National Poetry Month and the upcoming Poem in your Pocket Day, April 27th. She also welcomed everyone, gave a short overview of who the Association is, reminded all that only members could vote and invited any non-members to join.

The minutes from the 2016 annual meeting were circulated.

A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Lori Zablow, Associate co-Vice President, introduced a proposed change to the bylaws to allow Association Officers to serve for more than two consecutive two-year terms if agreed to by the Association membership at the annual meeting on a case-by-case basis. This change would allow dedicated officers to continue their long-term fundraising efforts.

A motion to accept this change was made and seconded. The motion carried.

No new candidates were presented for election to be an officer of the Association as the full slate of four officers has agreed to continue their service. Karen Zevin, Treasurer, will now serve as President of the Association as Marianne Merola has completed her two-year term.

Karen Zevin, Treasurer of the Croton Free Library Association, read the Treasurer's Report.

Revenues totalled \$42,754.30 closely matching the income of the fiscal year 2016.

Book & Bake Sale revenue continues to do well, Just Right Reads revenues were more than double the previous year, and the donation box revenues were okay but could be improved by increased availability during events.

The 2016 Annual Appeal raised a total of \$17,183.00, which is less than the prior year, but the loss was made up by the increase in Just Right Reads sales.

After gifts to the Library totalling \$30,000, the association is left with just under \$26,000 in the account.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Karen went on to speak as President, voicing her concern over the decline of the Annual Drive. She hoped it was merely due to current political climate altering the public's giving trends for the year.

Kelly Thomann, Outgoing President of the Board of Trustees of the Croton Free Library, gave her annual report via a David Letterman-style Top 10 List.

Top 10 Accomplishments of 2016/2017

- #10 Board Minutes can now be found on the Library website
- #9 New Layout and Signage in the Library itself
- #8 New Lighting and Audio-Visual Equipment in the Ottinger Room
- #7 Successful Events, such as the visit from Illustrator, Jerry Pinkney
- #6 New Water Fountain with Water Bottle Refill capability
- #5 Increase in the Popularity and Organization of the Book & Bake Sale and Just Right Reads
- #4 Updates to the Young Adults and Kids' Sections
- #3 Successful Launch of Comic-Con
- #2 Maker Space takes off with Dynamic Programs in Soundproof Areas
- #1 Kelly Officially Announced Jesse Bourdon as the New Directory of the Croton Free Library, effective May 7th, 2017

A motion to accept the President's report was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Kelly introduced Jesse to give his Director's Report. He began by providing a short biography and resume summation to introduce himself. Acting as Assistant Direction since 2013, Jesse believes in going Big in a Small Community by Knowing Your Patrons, which he learned from a former director, May Donnery. He also plans to continue expanding the physical Library as former director Yvonne Cech began with the Maker Space and new carpets throughout the Library.

Jesse went on to review the past year's accomplishments.

- Comic-Con - over 1,200 attendees; other Libraries are interested in learning
- Maker Space - programs are expanding to include high and low tech and the 3D printer
- Laptops Available - a fourth computer will be added to be used within the Library by patrons
- New Layout - the Library's new layout created space, and we were able to increase Fiction by 50%, double DVDs, and triple CDs
- Children's Programming - on the rise with "out of area" attendees

Jesse also outlined projects for the future.

- More Comprehensive Signage - both inside and outside of the building
- Improvements to the exterior of the Library, including expanding the patio

A new Smartphone App is in development in conjunction with the Westchester Library System
Meeting the demands of the community such as trying to fulfil book suggestions as often as possible

Marianne welcomed Jesse as the new Director and thanked him for his prior dedication as Assistant Director.

Marianne thanked Kelly Thomann for her service to the Board as her term came to a close. She was presented with flowers, and a bookplate was affixed to A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith, Kelly's choice, to immortalize her trusteeship.

Michelle Minoff's term as trustee also expired after four years of service. Marianne also thank Michelle, presented her with flowers, and a bookplate was affixed to A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle, Michelle's choice, to immortalize her trusteeship.

Elizabeth Hiller, Association co-vice president, presented Sid Franks as a nominee for one of the vacant Board of Trustees seats.

A motion to accept him as a new member of the Board was made and seconded. The motion carried.

She also presented Marianne Merola as a nominee for the second vacant Board of Trustee seats.

A motion to accept her as a new member of the Board was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Marianne then thanked all of the officers of the association for their continued service and all of the volunteers for tirelessly working this past year. Without them, the Annual Appeal, the February Food drive, the Fall and Spring Book and Bake Sales, and the ongoing Just Right Reads Program could not run. Highlight volunteers included year-round sales organizer Art Almeida, and Just Right Reads organizer, Patricia Foley.

Marianne gave a few reminders of upcoming events:

The Library Budget Vote on May 16th

At the Croton-Harmon High School

The Library will have a booth at Summerfest on June 4th

Finally, Marianne thanked every person for their contributions, large and small and thanked everyone for the privilege of leading the Association, "The Friends of the Croton Free Library." She ended by paraphrasing the poem which led the meeting, "Be 'famous' - not because you did anything spectacular, but because you never forget what you can do."

She then asked Karen, as the newly appointed President of the Association, to close the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.