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**Friends of the Peabody Institute Library of Danvers**
**Board of Directors Meeting** **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Ellen Clarkson, Michele Chausse, Lynette Gray, Elizabeth Chouinard, Mary Saratora, Maryann Kowalski, Marsha Coogan, Sharon Jaworski, Deb Wilson, Anne Casey. Staff: Noelle Boc

Ellen Clarkson, President, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion made by Elizabeth Chouinard to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2025Board Meeting. Michele Chausse seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

**Membership report** – Lynette Gray, Chair, reported that there are 86 members for 2025, with two pending payment. At this time in 2024, there were 98 members. After the 2024 book sale, there were 118 members. It was suggested that more promotion be done at the membership kick-off period, and that we should compare 2024 and 2025 member lists and reach out to those not renewing in 2025. Ellen will look into that effort.

Anne Casey suggested the library let people who are receiving museum passes know that they are furnished by the Friends. If sending them via email, maybe a link to the Friends page can be included. Library Director Noelle will consider this idea to create awareness of the Friends’s contribution.

**Museum Pass Program approvals/vote** – Lorraine Jewkes will now be handling museum passes for the library. We discussed the N.E. Aquarium pass for $650 renewal. It is a very popular pass but the drawback is that it is not effective for June, July and August. Also discussed a pass with The Trustees of the Reservations (per their website, has access to more than 120 locations and thousands of programs at a reduced cost). Annual fees for discounted museum passes for library patrons were voted on. **Motion** made by Ellen Clarkson to approve purchasing/renewing the following passes: The Trustees of Reservations $200; New England Aquarium $650; Zoo New England $400. Motion seconded by Elizabeth Chouinard. All in favor; motion carried

**Finance report** – Ellen re viewed the budget and financial report As of 3/10/25, our total balance including both savings and checking accounts as well as the CD, is $17,974.29 Our Known Expenses for Q2 2025 are $1750.00. The Friends received a gift of $250 from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Fraternity Lodge #118 in Salem, to be used for youth programming. Marsha Coogan will follow up on our $2000 grant money from the Danvers Cultural Council to inquire when we may expect to receive it

**Calendar review/ Past events and upcoming events** – Michele Chausse, Vice President, reported that the Music from the Black South concert on 2/22 was well-received, attracting 73 attendees. A video has been posted on the Library’s YouTube channel. [Music from the Black South: A Program to Celebrate Black History Month: 2/22/25](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gg9w-JRM1OA) The Oral History Workshop on 3/4 drew 15 participants, who began writing stories of their life. It was suggested that the program return in the fall, possibly offered in the morning at the Senior Center and in the afternoon at the library. We also requested that the program could run an additional 30 minutes. Michele will look into all this. The Irish Music Concert with Gary Foreman was also well-attended, with about 60 people, who sang along to classic Irish folk songs.

Again this year, the Friends will create gift bags for the library staff of about 30 to thank them for their hard work during National Library Week in April. A small journal notebook, sweets, and a $15 Dunkin’ gift card, along with a personal note of thanks, will be created for each staffer on April 7 in the Classroom from 10 am -11:30 am.

Marsha Coogan, Program Committee Chair, reported Endicott Park rangers have offered April 21 at 4pm as the date for a program to be held there but, as that is a state holiday, she will coordinate with member Elaine Cidzik, who has been liaison with the park, regarding alternative dates of 4/22, 4/23 or 4/24. [Note: since our meeting another date of 4/28 has become available. ]Also, wondering if Ranger Ryan will be present?

The annual book sale will kick-off with an introductory meeting on April 22 at 6:30 in the Classroom. This year, we will reach out again to a nonprofit, the Water and Literacy Movement, that sends the unsold books to Kenya.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 14 from 6:30 - 8 pm, with a short business meeting followed by talk by author JoeAnn Hart. Michele has firmed the date up with JoeAnn.

The Friends is considering sponsoring a different musical act for the Rec Department’s summer concert series again this year, rather than the Northshoremen. Possibly a children’s entertainer; Noelle recommended Steve Blunt and Friends. It would be a concert specifically targeted for children (and families too). **Motion** made by Elizabeth Chouinard to authorize Marsha to check into this concert and for the Friends to pay $600. Lynette Gray seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed. [Note: Since our meeting this artist has been tentatively booked for August 6 for $600.]

A theater presentation about Eleanor Roosevelt, called Truly Eleanor presented by the Delvena Theatre, has been booked for October 25. Marsha made the suggestion to arrange to have an interpreter there to sign for those patrons with hearing problems. **Motion** made by Marsha Coogan to confirm the October 25date and approve the $695 expenditure. Seconded by Ellen Clarkson. All in favor; motion passed.

A classical music concert for piano and violin, will be booked for November 15. **Motion** made by Lynette Gray to approve the $800 expenditure. Seconded by Elizabeth Chouinard. All in favor; motion passed.

**Board vacancies** – Michele provided an update on vacancies for the 2025-2026 year. Currently president, vice president, and secretary positions are available, in addition to membership chair. Information is at the bottom of the minutes. [Note: a secretary candidate came forth following the meeting.]

**Other** – new fundraising idea was tabled until next month, due to time.

**Library updates** – Noelle Boc, PIL Director, provided an update on staff additions and reassignments. She talked about the potential for federal cuts to the state’s funding for libraries, which amounts to $3.5 million from the Institute of Museums and Libraries. That funding provides for a statewide database, money for summer reading program, and may affect continued grant funding for the PIL’s services for deaf and hard of hearing persons.

Friends, here is a link to the American Library Association: ala.org, and their position on possible changes. <https://www.ala.org/news/2025/03/ala-statement-white-house-assault-institute-museum-and-library-services>

***Next meeting is April 16, 2025 at 10:30 am in the classroom***

**OPEN FRIENDS BOARD POSITIONS**

**President**, who shall preside at all meetings of the organization, appoint committee chairpersons, interface with the Library Director and staff, and represent the organization at private and public functions or activities during the term of office.

**Vice President**, who shall assist the president and serve as the presiding officer and representative of the organization in the absence of the president or at the request of the president. The vice president shall serve as the chair of the Nominating Committee.

**Recording Secretary**, who shall keep a correct record of the minutes of the organization and be the custodian of all administrative records of the organization, including minutes of the meetings, membership rosters, correspondence, and files. The recording secretary shall prepare and electronically distribute all meeting agendas, notices, and minutes, and will send occasional email blasts and book rooms for meetings/events.

**Membership Chair**

Note: For those wishing to nominate yourself or another individual to be considered as a candidate, one should email friends.pil.danvers@gmail.com by April 16, 2025 and indicate the desired position. Any questions or concerns, contact Michele at mcabovethefold@gmail.com or 978-697-1928.

*P.S. The time commitment is not great, and the knowledge that you are contributing to the quality of life in Danvers is gratifying. We hope you will consider joining our vibrant library community!*