

Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum Association

August 17, 2022 4:00PM

Steele Room

Agenda:

Review of Minutes emailed:

Correspondence:

Treasurer Report: Mark Twichell

Librarian Report: Graham Tedesco-Blair

Curator's Report: Max Walters

Town Representative: Christopher Schaeffer

Village Representative: Michelle Twichell

Old Business: Polacek Fund

Picnic

Spheres of Influence Exercise

New Business: Fundraising – Case Statement Development

Calendar:

Adjourn Meeting:

Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum Association

July 20, 2022 Minutes

Members present: Jeff Adams, Jon Weekly, Mark Twichell, Daniel Young, Kitty Crow, Linda Prechtel (video), David Dengler

Members absent: Pat Stokes, Kathy Petersen.

Village Rep.: Michelle Twichell

Town of Pomfret Rep.: Chris Shaffer

Review of June Minutes: Amendments discussed to recognize David's presence; Catherine stood in for Max at this meeting. Minutes Approved.

Correspondence: None Received

Treasurer's Report: Endowment funds continue losses from downward market with Director's Fund (Courier Capital) losing 21% of value since Jan 1 and Morris Miller Fund (Wilmington Trust) losing 18% of value in same time. Monthly BLB statements show effects of increased energy costs with electric expenses 100% over budget and gas 200% over budget.

Librarian's Report:

New librarian on staff Laurie Weatherlow.

Tranquility fountain cleaned by D'Arsie.

Little Library dedication ceremony 7-23.

D+F security system upgrade quote received.

Wi-fi range extension to Barker Common quote will be presented to Friends.

Art display rails quote will be presented to Friends for library's portion and museum portion will go to museum budget.

Proposed mural artist Erin R. will receive \$100 to prepare three vignettes of possible mural design for review by village. Mural Design Committee will be formed to suggest theme and place vignettes on website for public comment.

Summary presentation of library visits by school class category was discussed and statistical tracking was suggested by Kitty.

Invitations sent out for annual picnic have resulted in some declensions.

Library activities for the month include lego masterbuilders, take home crafts, children's room mailbox. Adult programs include plant swap, writing workshop, Fredonia Reads@Barker Common, computer training.

Curator's Report:

Exhibits: Feeding Fredonia to open August 26 with items from Card Building on loan in addition to collections items, Mark Twain December 3 with guest speakers Steve Keefe and Tom Reigstad.

Building improvements: conservation of 7 Mark Twain books, New lighting for Manly Gallery purchase order completed, Blackout roller shades to be installed soon in Manly gallery.

Collections Management: new intern Erin Hibberg reorganizing village records and preparing finding aid, Catherine continuing to reorganize and catalog Civil War collection.

Programs: Silhouettes and Sunprints for students to continue until August 3 and be extended for adults with Friends purchasing supplies, photography contest until July 31 with entries on display in Library until voting is closed. Promotion: new Museum fliers being distributed at events and information boards and to appear in OBSERVER, website updated with volunteer signup forms and list of projects and programs which people can donate towards.

Town of Pomfret Representative:

Town is entering budget preparations. Our association is asked to provide information in support of continued appropriation from town budget. Mark will review information shared with Town last year.

Village of Fredonia Representative:

Sculptor who replaced stolen cherub on fountain in West Barker Common has suggested possible fundraising by selling miniature versions of cherub. Michelle will invite sculptor to future meeting, possibly September.

Old Business: Next Fundraising Committee meeting July 28, Jeff handed out Spheres of Influence forms for fundraising connections to be returned by all Association members at next meeting August 17. Association picnic at Russel Joy Park August 23 at 4, setup and cleanup volunteers needed and suggestions for games and door prizes welcome.

New Business: Graham will ask Jason Stronz to attend a meeting in order to explain the workings of our Polacek Fund.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Twichell,

Acting Secretary

Librarian's Report

8/17/2022

- Met with Erin Ruffino re: outside mural. Nice long chat with her and Max about potential ideas and concepts, and gave tour of museum and library to inspire ideas.
 - Primary location of the mural: back "L"-shaped side of the library, facing out towards Main Street / M&T drive-thru bank
 - Possible methods: 1) Painting directly onto the wall, 2) Painting and applying mural cloth (Polytab), 3) Printing and applying Polytab
 - Potential Themes: History of Fredonia; potentially including gaslights, WCTU, Mark Twain, the library itself, The Barker Family, the Underground Railroad, important architecture, etc.
 - Consider the transition from "old to new" Fredonia
 - Contemplate the audience viewing the mural from the street. Come up with ways to draw them into the Museum/Library and get curious about its history
- Paid deposit to have her develop designs, should be back by early October
- Summer Reading a big hit! We wrapped up on Aug 13th, and should have the numbers soon, but tons of kids participated and each program was very well attended.
- Bag of Junk contest for the teens also a huge hit, with winners being announced and prizes distributed – program consisted of teens being distributed a paper bag with various “junk” items, from which they created a sculpture.
- Ancestry.com tutorial on the 12th well attended and well received. More specialty tutorials will follow in the future
- Salad Spinner art program
 - Public display of art and contest to run through October
- School Backpack giveaway courtesy of Friends
- Stats:
 - Number 3 in the system for Overdrive eBooks
 - 2167 total circs for month of July, including 867 adult books, and 788 juvenile books

Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum Association

Board Meeting

August 17, 2022

Curator's Report

Exhibits

- Card Seed items including seed packets, display shelves and shipping equipment, were received on loan from Main St Studios in the old Card building. These will be on display as part of the upcoming exhibit, *Feeding Fredonia: The Legacy of Local Food Manufacturers*.

Building Improvements

- New lights! BECC installed exhibit lighting in Manly Gallery and Parlor for \$5,688. At a later date, they will also install LED lights in the Weaver doll house to replace the incandescent bulbs which are burning out, as well as accent lights to highlight the architectural elements visible in the ceiling cutaways.
- Blackout roller shades installed. Total cost \$1,619.
- Filing cabinets were replaced with the help of Muldowney Brothers, who replaced 7 cabinets for us as volunteers.

Collections Management

- Acquired the Grape Belt Archive on August 1st.
 - The the archive is a physical and digital collection housed in 6 boxes, extending 2.5 linear feet, and composed of postcards, rare images, ephemera, agricultural catalogs, pamphlets, and photocopies of reference materials including biographies, academic journals, booklets, newspapers, correspondences, and research notes. The archive will be made available digitally on the Barker Museum's website, and physically at the Barker Museum.
 - Tentative schedule for uploading the digital portion of the archive onto the website aims for February.
 - A reception for the archive's handoff will be held at the Barker on Friday, September 2nd from 12-4. The creator, John Slater, will give a brief talk about his process of collecting the archive. Associates in the project and local wine producers have been invited and most have confirmed. Wine potentially to be provided by Johnson Estates.

Programs

- Our Summer program, Silhouettes and Sunprints, which ran in conjunction with the Fredonia-Pomfret youth Rec Department, has concluded with 40 total visits by children ranging in age from 7-16. We will offer the program to the public on August 30.
- Photography contest closed with winning photos now placed within the *Fredonia In Focus* photography exhibit.

Outreach

- The Barker is credited for the historical content appearing on the new signs in Barker Common.