

**Brooks Memorial Library — Fine Arts Committee Meeting
October 5, 2017**

Present: Judith Bellamy, Prudence Baird, Connie Bresnahan, Howard Burrows. Staff: Starr LaTronica. Absent: Alex Stinson, Christine deVallet (Scott Castle and Elizabeth McCollum will no longer be regular committee members.)

1. Call to order Howard called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. Public comment None

3. Minutes of September 6, 2017, meeting. Since several committee members had not received the minutes in advance, approval was tabled until the November meeting. Also, Judith corrected item 6c to read "author/illustrator Judith Oksner's 'Barking'." Starr and Howard corrected the name of the conservator in item 4a to William Myers.

4. FA Collection (a) Cleaning/relocating sculptures Starr reported that former Smith College conservator William Myers cleaned Snow Angel, its pedestal, and plaque for a good price. He is willing to do more work on the collection. He offered to present a program on frame issues as a fundraiser for the library. The art handler from DAX Transport installed Snow Angel on the square wooden pedestal because of unresolved attachment method and weight issues. The smaller Echo was temporarily installed on Snow Angel's original marble pedestal. Prudence suggested faux-painting the wood pedestal to complement Snow Angel and keeping Echo on the marble pedestal. Three Schoolgirls was moved to the second-floor elevator lobby. Connie asked about lighting on Snow Angel. Starr will ask electrician for estimate for wiring that location.

(b) FA storage room The large portrait of Blanche Moyses has been moved to the new Brattleboro Music Center building, and the Children's cases have been removed from the storage room, making more space for working in the room.

(c) A new FA Coordinator is needed. Judith suggested issuing a press release to local newspapers and announcements in the Friends newsletter and on the library's website.

5. Terry Sylvester mural The mural has been taken down and put away in the FA storage room for safekeeping.

6. Exhibits (a) Public Since the *Mineralogy Club* regularly uses the cabinet in the second-floor entryway in October/November, they will have to be contacted to reschedule because The Word Project wants to use the case for its exhibits.

(b) Children's Illustrators exhibits • Greenfield, MA, author/illustrator Astrid Sheckels's "Hector Fox and the Giant Quest" is on display during October and November. • Prudence suggested honoring Simi Berman by displaying her Christmas book (in Italian) during December, if she's willing. Another of Simi's books, on the invention of pasta (unpublished), could be used as a stimulus for a children's pasta-making activity. Prudence will propose these ideas to Simi.

(c) Children's Illustrators display cases • At Starr's request, Howard moved the two cases from FA storage to the staff lounge until a permanent location can be determined. Possible locations were discussed, including on the wall above the computer stations and on the wall opposite the new first-floor rest room. • Prudence suggested moving the marble bas relief bust of James Fisk from the alcove next to the children's cases and instead using the alcove for a children's interactive art space, while also centering the existing cases vertically on the wall at a better viewing height for kids. Judith will email Starr documents detailing the long-term loan status of the Fisk bust.

7. Anna Dewdney event Prudence distributed a detailed summary of the plan she and Connie, together with children's librarians Lindsay Bellville and Paige Martin, have devised for the event, now scheduled for February 10, 2018, as "a Llama Love reading and Valentine's day celebration of the life and works of Anna Dewdney." The FA committee liked the plan, so the planners will next seek the approval/cooperation of Dewdney's executor Reed Duncan, Starr, and the Friends.

8. FA community opportunities/programming partners (a) Interns and others Howard would like to connect with art departments at schools and colleges to identify interns to coordinate various projects between the library and the community. He also wants to involve the people who have recently attended FA meetings, but are not or are no longer official committee members, in such projects going forward.

(b) The Words Project Prudence described the purpose of the NEH grant funding "People, Places, and the History of Words in Brattleboro" (The Words Project) as an effort to bring people together in a time of divisiveness, by exploring commonalities such as place. The exhibit "Brattleboro's Letterpress Years" will be on display throughout the library for the Literary Festival and during October. [Ed.: An interesting article dated 10/03/17 appears on the VTDigger.org website.]

(c) Starr met an architectural graduate student who specializes in *accessible art* and who has agreed to visit the library to look at the space and offer some ideas.

9. Review of FA policies and forms Starr said the Bylaws specify that all policies be reviewed periodically. Judith noted that a comprehensive review and revision of the policies and forms had been completed by the committee in January 2016. [Ed.: According to the Bylaws, such review should take place at least every three years.]

Other 50th Anniversary report Starr noted that the event was well attended, and the presentations for children and adults were enjoyed by their audiences. She expressed appreciation for all who helped make the day a success. **Walking Tour brochure revision** Judith updated the map locating displayed artwork to have on hand for the 50th Anniversary, but the entire brochure will have to be revised. A professional graphic designer should be engaged for the job as soon as possible.

NEXT MEETING November 2, 2017, at 9 a.m.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 a.m.