Lyceum Committee

Minutes for May 7, 2018

Present: Mary Weissblum, Christy Park, Cindi Williams, and Susan Oleksiw

Absent: Barbara Braver, Jill Carter, Saira Austin, and Rosella Sagall

The minutes were approved.

Wrap-ups

The program Tiny Houses was a great success, with 102 attendees. It was filmed by Cape Ann TV, so should be broadcast soon for those who didn't get to see it live. The audience was enthusiastic, and the three presenters complemented each other well.

Programs Ready

Mark Parisi will present on May 10. Publicity has gone out. There was a good write-up in the Beacon, and the Times is planning a piece also.

John Root was will present on June 7 (the library is closed on the original date).

Old Business

Indian Artifacts--The committee received an inquiry from someone who wanted to present a piece on Indian artifacts, but after consulting with Mary Ellen Lepionka it was decided that the program wasn't up to our standard.

Gloucester Conversations--since our last discussion we have learned that other groups and communities are undertaking guided discussions on important topics, making use of the skills available through groups such as Gloucester Conversations and others. Mark Nester is covering gun violence and a group in Beverly is also covering community issues. This topic, on encouraging constructive discussion, is being carried by other, more appropriate groups, so is not a program concern for the library.

The UU Church, of which Carol Ackerman was a member, held a luncheon in her honor. Jerry announced a fund to support music in the church, and the Lyceum members can participate in that if we so desire rather than producing our own memorial fund or event.

Iris Weaver is interested in doing a program on foraging, preferably in July or August. She will bring samples and pictures rather than a power point presentation. We will offer her an honorarium of $100, and the tentative date is Thursday, August 9, 7:00-8:30.

Eileen Carlotta will offer a program on meditation on May 24, 7:00. She doesn't want a fee.

New Business

Goodbye, Little Dude is a children's book published by a small press in Rockport and written by a writer in Sudbury. The story grew out of a story about a young boy with cancer who rescued a turtle, which he named Dude. The Globe had a nice story about the child and the book. The author is Becky Trotsky, not a local author, and there seems to be too little local connection for a Lyceum program.

Hygge is a Danish work for a warm and fuzzy, comforting event/activity. The Committee is considering a series of events for families in the colder months, to emphasize coziness, warmth, etc. They could be held biweekly or monthly in the Friend Room on a Saturday afternoon. We'll discuss further at the June meeting.

Chris Leahy, retired from the Audubon Society, has offered to do a program on the Harbor Islands.

Gloucester has a new poet laureate but we can't find his/her name anywhere.

Cindi provided information on Paul J. Zambella, a retired from the Mass. State Police Crime Lab, who does a forensic science program. This was greeted enthusiastically by one Lyceum member in particular. This sounds like a good program.

Cindi also presented information on Sam Ducharme, from Woodstock, CT, who presents a program on hiking the Appalachian Trail and trail culture. This also sounds like a good program.

The committee adjourned at 5:20.

Respectfully submitted by

Susan Oleksiw (for Barbara Braver)