

MINUTES of the FRIENDS OF THE AMHERST PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2024

Present: Becky Denes, Marilyn Bronson, Kathy Michaels, Kay Clark, Bev Paige, Sandee Ruth, Angela Cecil, Victoria Mowcomber, Laurie Laubacher, Barbara Brown, Jackie Fedako, Patti Drew, Malvine Zahratka, Carol Valenti, Becky Demich, Judy Alexander, Eileen Rockwell, Mary Margaret Hyde, Carol Hutner, Colleen Burman, Les Kreeger, Liz Hui, Kathy MacLean, Marilyn Hubbard, Cookie McLoda, and Maureen Dix.

President: Cookie McLoda

Previous Minutes: Liz Hui made a motion seconded by Colleen Burman that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Hubbard reported:

Checking: \$9,571.07 CD: \$5,997.36 Total Assets: \$15,568.43 (Book Box \$60.00)

Library Liaison: Becky Denes stated that Nancy Tomek, youth services director, has applied for the Dollar General grant using the Friends tax exempt number. The new online library calendar is up and running. She thanked Judy Alexander for the contact for Dave Lengyel from the Oberlin Observatory who will speak about the upcoming total eclipse on Monday, March 25, at 6:30. Becky stated the circulation desk is requesting that the Friends purchase additional blue plastic bags to use for patron materials. A motion was made by Judy and seconded by Becky Demich that Friends purchase 1000 more bags from JanWay. The motion passed. Maureen Dix will place the order.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committees: Lists of committee assignments were distributed.

Audit: Kay Clark stated that she will schedule a date with Treasurer Marilyn for the annual audit of the books.

Author Luncheon: Maureen Dix will contact David Miraldi about speaking at the author luncheon. Laurie Laubacher will send the speaker's contract to David, if he is available. Cookie McLoda will confirm the date of Thursday, October 17th with the Metroparks for the use of Sunset Terrace.

Book Nook: Kay Clark reported that we are accepting donations for the nook. Proceeds from February were \$60.00. It was suggested that a sign be posted that new books are always being added.

Book Sale: Les Kreeger will chair the book sale committee. Becky Denes has two boxes of puzzles to donate. It was mentioned that the Lorain Library will be holding their book sale during the same weekend. A question was asked if members would be able to volunteer online. Following discussion, it was decided to experiment with asking for donations for materials in place of having a set fee schedule.

Budget: A motion was made by Barbara Brown and seconded by Marilyn Bronson that \$500.00 be added to the budget for a staff appreciation event to be held during National Library Week. (April 7-13)- Motion carried. Gift cards were suggested as a possibility . Kathy MacLean volunteered to handle this project.

Bulletin Board: Angela Cecil reported that the Friends bulletin board in the main lobby is being maintained and updated.

Bylaws: The Bylaws committee recommended the removal of the following language from the Bylaws. **"The committee shall organize and host the meet and greet event for Friends general membership. (This event replaces the annual meeting)."** A discussion followed explaining that the only attendees were regular Friends members and that perhaps, if interested, a group go out for a holiday lunch instead. Kathy MacLean moved the removal of the language be approved. Becky Demich seconded. Motion carried.

Fundraising: Liz Hui reported that success has been limited in selling T-shirts and our fundraising should focus on other means.

Kindergarten Read: Victoria Mowcomber reported that she contacted the schools about changing the month in which we read to the students. Two of the three schools stated that they prefer October. We will continue to conduct the event in October.

Membership: Carol Hutner reported 101 current members. A suggestion was made to recruit more corporate members. At present there are only five. Cookie volunteered to attend a meeting of **Downtown Amherst** to make more local businesses aware of the Friends mission.

Pack the Backpack: It was suggested that a notice be posted on the website and Facebook that donations are being accepted for a Pack the Backpack event in January of 2025.

Publicity: Liz Hui reported that we have 221 Facebook friends; twenty-nine of these are new.

Community Shred: Carol Valenti stated that the annual shred day will be held on Saturday, July 13th from nine till noon or until the truck is full.

Sunshine Committee: Kathy Michaels stated that she will send a get-well card to Don Lamoreaux.

NEW BUSINESS

Main Street Amherst: Les Kreeger made a motion that Friends renew our membership in **Main Street Amherst** for \$125.00. Angela Cecil seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Marilyn Hubbard moved we adjourn.

Adjourned: 12:38pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 11:15am

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Dix, Secretary