

FRIENDS OF THE AMHERST PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING

Minutes for March 26, 2025

Called to Order: 11:19 AM

Present: Kay Clark, Bev Paige, Sandee Ruth, Kathy Michaels, Marilyn Bronson, Laurie Laubacher, Carol Inniss, Malvine Zahratka, Peaches Ogbuji, Sherry Dispenza, Rhonda Neuhoﬀ, Barb Neuhoﬀ, Becky Demich, Judy Alexander, Carol Hutner, Eileen Rockwell, Les Kreeger, Becky Denes, Marilyn Hubbard, Cookie McLoda, Liz Hui.

Previous Minutes: Marilyn Bronson moved to accept the minutes from the February 26 meeting. Kay Clark seconded.
Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Hubbard reported:

February 2025

Checking: \$15,618.52

CD: \$6,296.37

Total Assets: \$21,789.89

Book Nook for January: \$56

Report was submitted for audit.

Correspondence: None

Library Liaison:

- Becky Denes passed around a wish list of items for the library:
 - Cricut machine
 - Wheeled side table for circulation desk
 - Materials/supplies for the new large-format printer
 - Staff break room improvements: standing cabinet, curtains, serving ware / silverware
 - Continued program and event support as needed
 - Bev Paige suggested placing a cushioned 2-seat bench or other seating in the lobby area for patrons.
 - Becky also noted that Library Staff Appreciation Day will be April 8. The group noted that in 2024 the Friends purchased gift cards for all library employees.
 - Becky will bring information about the cost and item specifics at the next meeting.
- As retirements are continuing, the library has hired 2 new staff who will start soon; one of the new positions is dedicated to outreach.
- April will be the last month for storytimes; they will be on break in May and return later in the year.
- There will be 2 drop-in crafts for teens in April, a CD mosaic & a paper kite.
- This year the library will offer a sensory-friendly Easter egg hunt on April 5 before the library opens at 9am. Registration is capped at 12. Participants will hunt for eggs, then turn them in to receive a goodie bag.
- Canine reading buddies will also take place on April 5, and the Easter Bunny is coming at 11am on the same day.
- On April 9 and 23, "Downsizing 101" and "Downsizing 102" sessions will be offered for anyone who is thinking about downsizing into a smaller home.
- On April 17, Achieve Credit Union will present about fraud and scams, and how to avoid them.
- Active For Life will be at the library for seated rhythm dancing, then in June there will also be seated hula.
- DIY Cleaning Supplies will return April 21 and 28, which will feature all purpose spray, soft scrub, & carpet powder with all-natural components.
- A new chess club will debut April 28 at 5:30.
- Coloring books & pencils have arrived for adult summer reading.
- The library is out of blue bags. The Friends discussed ordering more bags.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Auditing: Kay Clark. Auditing is complete.

Author Lunch: Laurie Laubacher. Laurie reported that Andrew Graff, author of Raft of Star and True North, has been secured to speak at the author luncheon on October 16. Mr. Graff teaches at Wittenberg. Lakeview has been reserved from 9am to 2pm. Laurie thanked everyone who sent her suggestions. Cookie McLoda mentioned we should check discuss ticket pricing based on how much the lunches will be.

Book Nook: Kay Clark. February's Book Nook proceeds were \$56.

Book Sale: Les Kreeger. Les would like the Friends to gather data about how patrons find out about the book sale; while we are working the sale, he suggested asking patrons and keeping a tally sheet. Sandee confirmed that book donations are coming in, and the Friends discussed book donation and sorting procedures. Les will contact the high school to ask for student volunteers looking for service hours.

Budget: Cookie McLoda. Cookie confirmed the continuance of budgeting \$400 for the library staff appreciation day. It was recommended to purchase 1 year's worth of Janway blue bags. Kindergarten books changed from \$1,500 to \$900 based on previous years' purchases. There was a suggestion to raise the Youth Services budget so the Friends can be available to contribute right away, and a recommendation to raise the budget for the 100th Day Restocking up to \$500. Bev Paige motioned to accept the budget. Barb Neuhooff seconded. **Motion carried.**

Bulletin Board: Angela Cecil. No report.

Bylaws: Cookie McLoda. No report.

Fundraising: Liz Hui. No report, but will look into athletic material shirts for the Bonfire website.

Kindergarten Reading: Victoria Mowcomber. No report.

Membership: Carol Hutner. Carol reported membership is at 94 members.

Nominating: Sharon Vollmer. No report.

100 Day School Restock: Angela Cecil. No report.

Publicity: Liz Hui. Liz reported that the Friends' Facebook followers are at 452, up from 446 in January and 270 in March 2024. The book sale event has been created and a call went out for books; will do another call for book donations and will get the book sale to the usual communication outlets.

Shredding: Carol Valenti. The shredding date is confirmed for July 12; the library has been receiving lots of requests for it.

Sunshine: Kathy Michaels. Kathy will send cards to Sharon Vollmer, Barb Brown, Diane Lamoreaux, and Gail Waitt.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Barb Neuhooff volunteered to purchase the gift cards for library staff appreciation day.

Adjourn: Bev Paige motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:22 PM.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2025 at 11:15 AM