

Friends of the Library

March 13, 2024

Present: Jen Albright, Kathy Peterson, Kirsten Badger, Sharon Freeman, Karylanne Brown, Perry Stokes, Tom Shrider

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm. The minutes of the November 28th meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: In Shannon's absence Jen gave the treasurer's report. We currently have \$26,482.38 .

Library Director's Report:

1. Sharp Box- a community survey was taken and the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of not having a Sharp Box in or on the grounds of the library. The board therefore declined the offer to place one. We do have a sharp box in the faculty restroom.
2. Audit report - there were no deficiencies found.
3. 2023 statistics - traffic is down 15% but checkouts are up 1%. The branch libraries increased checkouts. Digital checkouts are up 8%. Hoopla continues to grow every month.
4. Trying to manage youth conduct in libraries, particularly vaping. More teens are vaping in the library so protocol has been put in place to deal with the issue.
5. The Budget Committee meeting is May 22nd. There is a spot open if anyone is interested. We currently have a budget challenge as more properties have tied up their taxes in litigations causing lost revenue.
6. Magazine Use - several magazines are no longer available in printed form. The library is trying to get digital access available.
7. There is a special story time next Friday. Baby goats will be brought in. The battle of books is going on in the middle and elementary schools. The Summer Reading Program is sponsoring a book mark contest.

Book Shop Report:

Jen explained our new organization system so that books can be sorted faster and easier, eliminating the mess that boxes of unsorted books can cause. She shared our concern that the quantity of books being donated has decreased significantly. Sharon reported on the status of the Fiction section. She also noted the lack of books being donated. We talked about possible advertising, accepting larger quantities at a time and meeting with the manager of People Helping People to see if they have extra books they might want to donate. We are concerned that we will have fewer books for our summer sale, which is our best money maker.

Old Business:

Winter Book Sale: We made \$1702.90 on our winter sale. It was \$300 less than last year. \$516 was from Priced as Marked books. We replaced the \$5 bag sale the last day with a 25 cent sale but think we will only offer that at our summer sale from now on.

Publicity - We used the newspaper & radio and had posters around town. We felt the coverage was good the first weekend but not the second.

Volunteers - We had plenty of volunteers for set up and the sale but needed to find volunteers to help with take down. Overall, those who helped knew the system, were very efficient and the sale ran smoothly. Our summer sale will be during Miner's Jubilee in July.

New Business:

National Library Worker's Day - April 7-13th is National Library Week. The 9th is Library Worker's Day. Sharon, Sigrid and Kathy are in charge of organizing special treats for the library staff on the 9th. If you are interested in helping, contact Sharon Freeman at sfreeman441@gmail.com

Microwave for Staff Breakroom- the microwave in the staff room needed to be replaced so a motion for \$159.99 to purchase a new microwave was proposed. It was approved.

Library Director's Address:

Due to the number of books that are being requested to be removed from the Oregon libraries and the time it is taking the library staff to deal with each complaint, The Intellectual Freedom Committee has created a form that needs to be filled out by the individual giving specific examples as to why the book should be removed. Each individual would be allowed to submit a request 3 times in a year. Any other requests would be charged a fee. Once the form is filled out and submitted an internal review will

take place and a decision made. This will save the library staff a lot of time and will make the person requesting a removal more accountable. This proposal will be voted on at the next library board meeting.

The date for the next Friends of the Library meeting will be given after a survey is taken to find the best date for everyone.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Freeman, Secretary