

Friends of the Library Meeting
March 27, 2019

Welcome: President, Marie Anderson, called the meeting to order at noon on Wednesday, March 27, and welcomed those attending: Mary Frieze, Tony Gies, Donna Philip, Blanche Chapman, Mary Jo Hamling, Dani Buehler and Arlene Mari. Agendas for the meeting and the minutes of the February meeting were distributed for review.

Disposition of Minutes: An amendment to the minutes was made stating that the advertising dollars spent was for the Director position and not the Youth Librarian position. Blanche Chapman moved, seconded by Mary Frieze, to approve the minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Tony Gies reported we have \$14,124.10 in our account. He has paid our annual Secretary of State filing fee and updated our information on line. Our account balance includes membership fees of roughly \$3,800.00, \$300.00 up from last year. He reported we have 78 more memberships than last year at this point.

Book Sorting: Tomorrow we will hold our normal book sorting at the Book Station; there will be one more book sorting before our sale on April 6. At that sale, Tony and Louise Gies volunteered to work the first shift and Donna Philip will send out an e-mail to seek volunteers for the second shift.

Membership: Marie Anderson has drafted a membership letter stating our accomplishments for the year and which will include a return envelope for membership payment. Discussion was held concerning the categories and various rates assigned to each. Some people suggested the general membership rate be changed from \$5.00 per year to \$10.00 per year, but ultimately the group decided to have the rates remain the same.

Ownership of Book Station: The Book Station was initially purchased with Dowler Foundation funds, but the deed to the Book Station is in the city's hands. The expenses for maintenance of the building are divided among the city, the library and the Friends. The question of who should pay for what was discussed. The Book Station is a city-owned building. For building maintenance, it was suggested we need long-term capital improvement projections so everyone knows what upkeep will be scheduled and performed.

Author Dinner and Decorating Committee: The Author's Dinner will be May 15 and Keith McCafferty is our author/speaker. Blanche Chapman brought several books by this author for the group to peruse. We were reminded that the Friends will have a basket for the silent auction made up of donated canned items. Since the author is an avid outdoorsman and fly fisherman, the table decorations will include "flies" made by the Art Center and the library board members.

2019 Non-Profit Fair: Information was provided about a non-profit fair to be held May 9 upstairs at the Central Feed Grilling Company. Discussion was held as to whether we would want to participate in this. Participation would raise the community's awareness of the Friends of the Library and what we do. Each group taking part in this fair need to contribute a \$50.00 prize to be awarded at this event – this would encourage the public's interest and attendance. It was determined we could offer some wonderful books. Marie Anderson, Mary Jo Hamling and Blanche Chapman volunteered to help set up and host a table at the fair.

Library Furniture: Dani Buehler showed us a new version of the library main entrance along with pictures of a high-top table, bench, love seat, chairs and coffee table. She will select furniture from local stores. Blanche moved to give Dani permission to make the decision regarding the furniture, and the motion was seconded by Tony. The motion carried.

Census: Dani discussed the census champion to be done by the library for the city and county, and she is on the complete count committee. There is currently no money available to conduct the census, and a majority of the reporting will be done on line.

Other: The wooden whiskey flower barrels in front of the Book Station have rotted and won't last another year, so a motion was made by Blanche to replace these barrels. The motion was seconded by Donna Philip, and the motion carried.

Director's Report: Dani asked if the Friends would be interested in placing an ad in the Discover Lewistown magazine promoting our group. The consensus of the group was negative.

It was mentioned that the silent auction at the Author's Dinner might do better if we could accept credit cards. Jean Collins indicated her church has a credit card device we could use for this purpose. She offered to have two people from her church available to accept credit card purchases and then they would write a check to the Friends for the total amount received for the silent auction credit card purchases. A decision on this was deferred to the library board.

There being no further business to discuss, Marie adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Mari
Acting Secretary