

## **Friends of the Lewistown Public Library Meeting September 25, 2019 Minutes**

Those attending: Donna Philip, Arlene Mari, Tony Gies, Dani Buehler, MaryJo Hamling, Mary Frieze.

Arlene Mari called the meeting to order at noon. Agendas for the meeting and minutes of the previous meeting were distributed for review. Minutes were approved as corrected. Correction: Wording "Since Library staff were unable to attend the meeting, Arlene gave a short report on the results of the City Budget meeting."

Tony G. gave the Treasurer's report: Current balance of \$16,100.92. The Chokecherry Sale at the Book Station netted \$770.50, with approx. \$100 coming from outdoor sales.

### **New and Continuing Business:**

**Book Sorting** will be Thursday (tomorrow). More book sorting volunteers are always needed.

**New Windows on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of the library are installed.** The portions of the windows that open/close are still to be installed. Underneath those windows, the plan is to upgrade the windowsills with laminate. This will be for easy maintenance. Friends will pay for this.

**Native Montana Garden:** Previously it was discussed to have a bid from Leah G. from the Art Center for a native Montana plants garden below the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South windows. Arlene has checked with her several times for a bid, but Leah has not gotten back to her. Donna moved that the Friends contact Krings Greenhouse staff and ask them to winterize the garden and do some other work on it. Then in the Spring the Friends will follow up. Discussion was held about the creeping bellflower and the irises needing to be thinned. The motion was seconded by Tony Gies and the motion carried. Arlene will contact Krings. Donna said she is willing to volunteer with other Friends members to help in the Spring with the garden area upkeep. The garden will need a dedicated caretaker(s). Jeremy Bristol, who did the gravel and rock work around the library last Summer does not do actually gardening. But if we do the natural-type grasses with rocks, he does that.

Dani said that she preferred the garden as it is - with weeding and maintenance – because it will look lovely outside the new windows, and the daffodils are especially pretty early in the spring. Mary F. concurred.

**Painting of the exterior of the front doors on the upstairs Meeting Room:** The lower parts of the doors were quite weathered, so Arlene consulted with Dale Godfrey, woodworker, and with his advice, she contacted painter Pete Ruddy. Pete painted the doors with a marine varnish so they will be preserved. He kindly donated this work. Arlene will be sending him a thank you from the Friends.

**Christmas Seconds Sale/ in Dec.** Donna will get out an email about this. We need to do publicity (newspaper and radio) to spread the word and arrange for people to drop off donated items. Need a date set for start of donations. There are some Christmas items stored at the Book Station.

**MT Historical Society Book:** The Historical Society published a book about Montana Carnegie Libraries, with Lewistown's library prominently displayed on the cover. Thursday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a reception for the public with a book display and banners and the author, Kate Hampton,

will give a presentation. This will begin at 6 pm. The Friends agreed to provide finger food, etc. with a fall theme (pumpkin, apple, cranberry, possibly cider, etc.) This would be a good opportunity to personally contact people from the community and area and invite them to the reception and to also follow up by encouraging them to join the Friends. The library staff will put a display in the main entrance about this book.

### **Other:**

Arlene brought new Friends of the Library thank-you cards printed by the Lewistown News Argus to show the group. Some cards will be left here at the library for Friends' use. There were 250 printed.

**Officers for the Friends Group:** Marie Anderson has submitted a letter of resignation as President of the Friends, since she and Tom are moving to Spokane. The group is sorry to see them leave. They have done so much for the Friends and for the library. Arlene, as Vice President, is willing to serve as acting president until election of officers is held in May. Marie, as President of the Friends, was an ex-officio member of the Library Board and had great input and ideas and was a great resource on libraries.

**Bench:** Discussion was held about placing a concrete bench in honor of the Andersons over at the Book Station. It will have an engraved plaque, with an outline of a book and sentiment similar to "helping the Lewistown library be the best it can be." Donna had examples of plaques from All Awards and will be asking them for mock ups of possible designs for the next meeting. This will possibly be placed on the side of the Book Station facing the lawn and the library. Friends will pay for this. Bench costs around \$350 and the plaque also around \$300, depending on the specifics. Tony had photos of the similar one that honors Karl Gies at the Fish Hatchery. After the next meeting and All Awards completes the plaque, Tony will pick it up and coordinate with the placing of the plaque into the concrete bench and its installation by Casino Creek Concrete.

**Membership/Public Relations Promotion for the Friends Group:** A discussion was held about the need to encourage more people to be volunteers for the Friends and to promote and increase membership. A coordinated effort of public relations with a multiple facets approach is needed. Mary F. and MaryJo will meet and brainstorm some ideas to bring to the Friends for the next meeting.

**Director's Report** – Given by Dani.

**Movie Series:** As part of the 2019 Summer Reading Program, the library sponsored a free family movie, Muppets in Space, and this was very well received. It was decided the library will be sponsoring a Movie Series at the Judith Theatre this coming year. Each movie will cost from \$250 - \$350 and will be vintage movies. The plan is to have 3- 4 movies during the year. The total cost is around \$1,000. The plan is to have the first one in December with a vintage Christmas movie. Admission will be free and attendees will be able to buy concessions if they wish.

**Senior Living Fair, Wednesday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>:** Local PEO group contacted Nancy Sackett, who does the library outreach to senior facilities, about the library participating in the Senior Living Fair to be held upstairs at the Central Grilling in Lewistown from 2 pm until 5 pm. Setup is at noon. Dani invited the Friends to share the same 8 foot table with the Library staff, with the goal of inviting the public to check out the volunteer opportunities available with the Friends. The cost to have a table at this fair is \$20. Donna moved and Tony seconded to have the Friends pay the \$20 fee. This motion

carried.

**Update:** Dani explained that two new chairs and the tall table for the main downstairs area of library have been ordered (approx. cost \$1000). The Friends group had previously agreed to put \$3000 toward the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue window renovation. She said it is possible that \$500 to \$1000 more will be needed from the Friends to complete this project. For the security cameras, Dani is working with Bob at Snowy Mountain Lock and Door, and the cost will probably be close to \$3,500 (down from \$4,500 estimated earlier).

**The Shed:** Shed is full and needs to have some things cleaned out. Also, Bill Haugen, who did the upgrades for the windows in the upstairs meeting room, has been storing the old transom windows at his shop, and he needs those moved out very soon (in a couple weeks.) Dani and Jim Hanson will look at possibilities at the Book Station for storage of these transoms, which are 10 feet by 4 feet.

Arlene adjourned the meeting at 1:40 pm.

Minutes by MaryJo Hamling  
(in the absence of Sandy Birkland, Secretary)