

## **Friends of the Library September 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Those attending: Dani Buehler, Angie Eakins, Mary Frieze, Tony Gies, MaryJo Hamling, Arlene Mari  
President Arlene Mari called the meeting to order at noon.

The minutes and agendas were distributed. Minutes were approved (motion Tony G, 2<sup>nd</sup> Angie E).

**Treasurer's Report:** Tony G. reported the FOL balance is \$25,076.15. This includes \$5,000 for the grant to purchase a new book drop.

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

The book drop that Dani found is \$6,500. The plan is to buy some additional bins for it after waiting to see what the bin that comes with it is like. Some bins are very expensive (\$1,500 each) but possibly the library can find more inexpensive ones.

Last outdoor summer book sale: This Aug. sale went very well and had income of \$668.

There were two Fergus High National Honor Society (NHS) students who volunteered to work the sale, Tommy Brandon and Hailey Welsh. We appreciated their willingness to work and good efforts.

For followup, FOL needs to get the books reshelfed. We have had many books donated during the Community Volunteer Day and at the sale as well as during times when the library is open. So the shed is very full again.

**Spika Manufacturing Annual Day of Service for Community :** There was a good crew of workers on Wed. Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. They sorted all the boxes of books from the outdoor sale (fiction and mystery) by author and then helped haul them back into the station. They also swept, vacuumed and cleaned the Book Station windows and cleaned the bathroom.

Arlene cleaned the office/checkout area of the Book Station also. The history, biography and war sections of books need work. They are overcrowded.

**Donna's resignation as our communications person:** Donna Philip has sent emails for FOL for a long time to ask for volunteers for projects including monthly book sales and also to alert members of other FOL programs, activities, membership drives, etc. We appreciate her dedication to this. She would like someone else to take on this responsibility. She has a data base of contacts she will share. Arlene asked the group if someone is willing to send emails and update lists. This can be shared by 2 or 3 people. Dani and Arlene are willing to set this up.

**Santa's Seconds Sale:** This was discussed. It is more difficult to do this because of the COVID situation. The library does not really have adequate storage to store donations. There are currently several tubs/totes of Christmas items that were donated at the Book Station. It would also be a lot of work to haul these items to another location in town for a sale. This sale was a good source of income for the friends. The logistics are a big problem.

**Possible Winter Book Sales:** There was a discussion if this is feasible. The group felt the immediate action should be putting the books back on shelves and getting the Book Station organized from donated books. Two or three friends will work at a time and socially distance for the next few weeks of Oct. We decided on Wed. and Thursday mornings from 10am till noon. There is a possibility of having other sorting sessions as needed. Possibly a sale could be held with the stipulation that only 5-6 shoppers would be allowed in the Book Station at one time. Volunteers would be needed to monitor the front and back door. People could pay by donation as was done in the two summer sales. One idea was to have more hours available for the sale such as a few hours on a Friday afternoon and then the Sat. morning time also to spread out the shoppers.

### **Director's Report:**

The mobile units for library workers discussed at the Aug. meeting were purchased. This will allow them to work remotely if necessary and also to use these within the library itself.

The question of FOL supporting family movies at the Judith Theater again was brought up. A donor gave \$1,200 for this. There were two of these – end of Summer Reading Program in 2019 and one in March. The group felt FOL can support this effort after COVID shutdown is over.

The elevator/lift is okay and is ADA compliant.

**Director Report continued:**

LPL Podcast has been started. This involves the favorite books of the librarians. The usual library hours have also resumed.

Thank you to Nancy Watts who recently retired. She will be given a framed historic map. FOL will share the cost of this with the library.

Dani was informed by the City Manager that there have been a couple of inquiries this Summer from people who would be interested in purchasing the Book Station property. The city holds the deed to this property.

Those who inquired might have viewed the Book Station as a vacant property. The city did not have this for sale. The group discussed this. That property is valuable to the library for parking (both on the street and in the parking lot portion) as well as the FOL using it for sales. Some attendees mentioned reasons for the library keeping this property. Dani will be talking with the City Manager more about this.

Next FOL meeting will be Wed. Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted: MaryJo Hamling