

Minutes for the March 31, 2021 Friends of the Library Meeting

Attending: Sandy Birkland, Dani Buehler, Jean Collins, Mary Frieze, Tony Gies, MaryJo Hamling, Arlene Mari, Cathy Moser, Donna Phillip

Minutes and agendas were distributed. Minutes were approved as presented (motion Cathy M, 2nd by Tony G.)

Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$22,712.42. Membership drive has brought in \$4,203. Last years total was \$4,395. There have also been some donations toward replacing the stacking chairs. Jean Collins noted that people are especially willing to contribute toward something if they know specifically what the items are and the cost. There will be other membership money drifting in over time.

Director's Report: Dani B. will be leaving the library at the end of May. She thanked the FOL and appreciates what this group does for the library. She said she enjoyed working with FOL. She is willing to continue to help with financial/budget type aspects and grant related part-time through the Summer. Those attending expressed sadness that she is leaving. Mary F., gave Holly Phelps, City Manager the job description for Library Director yesterday. Dani had worked with the library for a decade.

The Library board continues to move forward with an upgrade to the library internet, which is much needed. There are several funding options for this.

The library is hiring a seasonal helper to assist with programming and also around the library. This should be posted by the end of the week.

There will be a youth summer reading program with two options: A. in-house similar to past summers and also B). digitally if we had to do this – distanced.

There will not be an adult summer reading program for 2021.

Library received \$7,500 Montana History Foundation grant to restore/repair the scroll work and sandstone on the exterior front entryway of the building upstairs. CJ Bailey, local masonry contractor, helped with this grant and can do the work. Plan is to do this in springtime.

New windows at the back of the building – a TIF (Tax Increment Funding) grant application is in. Mike Chapman had helped secure this. It will be reviewed next week.

Dani attended the Lib. Federation meeting. These are done regionally so ours is the South Central region. Libraries must attend these meeting to get funding from the Fed.

New And Continuing Business:

March Book Sale by Appointment results: \$202 on Friday and \$185 on Saturday, total of sale \$387. Down a bit from the past two sales. Lots of people whom Mary and Sandy phoned said they would be out of town.

April Book Sale: We will plan for a sale more like the regular sales before the pandemic interrupted this. So the sale will be Friday April 30th 1 – 5 pm and Sat. May 1st 9am till 2 pm. No appointments will be needed. Masks will be required (since many people involved and who wish to are still or have just begun to receive vaccinations.) We will advertise on radio, in the paper and with fliers, etc. again. We have some new volunteers recently and will try to involved them in this next sale.

We will continue to sort books on Thursday mornings from 9am till noon.

Library Director Position: It will be good to have Dani involved with budgets and grants and wrapping up things for the fiscal year as the procedure goes on to find a new Director.

Membership Cycle: This continues. We will still be accepting dues for this calendar year 2021.

By Laws Revision: Will wait till after membership drive and Director search is completed. There is not a lot of work required, just some small tweaking.

City has decided on the two 30-minute limit parking spaces directly in front of the library Main Entrance. There will be signage. This will help insure a spot for patrons who want to come to the library.

Book Station Info/history: Dani gave Arlene a white file box filled with info. The FOL will go through this and get the needed info then return it to the library. We think the Book Station began in approx. 2006. Margaret Smith was the Chair of the library board at that time. The Dowler Foundation (2706 account) made this purchase possible.

The following have been purchased for the library: a metal cabinet for Nancy Sackett to use and Laptop Store-n-Charge units for patron mobile devices that can be checked out and a preschool computer desk and chair.

A discussion was held about possibly weeding out some books at the Book Station that have been there a long time and have not had anyone seem interested in them. After the next book sale we will pursue this. There are also a few potentially valuable books and book collections that have come in recently. Possibly they could be sold on a silent auction basis to gain more income. Also, some audio books have come in as donations plus there are still VHS tapes of movies and also even some cassettes of books. Please let others know that these will be at the next book sale.

Sandy Birkland and Jean Collins are willing to look into an event such as an author dinner or other gathering.

American Library Week is next week . There will be some shortened hours at the library so that staff can attend online training.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryJo Hamling, Secretary