

Minutes for Lewistown Friends of the Library Meeting on May 26, 2021

Attending: Sandy Birkland, Dani Buehler, Mary Frieze, MaryJo Hamling, Jim Hanson, Arlene Mari, Donna Philip, Bob Tate, Claudia Tate

President Arlene Mari called the meeting to order at noon. Minutes and agendas were distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Arlene let us know the balance is \$22,924.92. There is \$5,000 for replacement of chairs.

Library Director's Report:

Town Pump Grant: Dani told the group that the FOL received a \$1,000 grant from the Town Pump Charitable Foundation to keep kids reading. The library's summer reading program for 2021 is already all set, so this can go for next years program.

Replacing chairs for upstairs room: Dani has found chairs to be ordered – 36 chairs and 3 chair dollies that each hold 12 chairs. During the membership drive recently, donations for \$5,000 have come in toward this. She explained that 15 of the current chairs are warped and need to be discarded. The library cannot give away property. Dani will sort the chairs, mark the unusable ones to be taken to the dump and then the 35 remaining will be moved to the Book Station. The FOL can offer these to people for a donation at the July Book Station sale.

New and Continuing Business:

Results of April 30/May 1 Book Sale:

Friday, April 30	\$549.00
Sat., May 1	399.00
Total:	948.00 (wow)

Upcoming Book Sale

Friday 6/4	1 – 3 pm	_____
	3-5 pm	Sandy Birkland & _____
Saturday 6/5	9 – 11:30 am	Tony and Louise Gies
	11:30 – 2 pm	_____

For the July sale, we will move off the first weekend of the month due to the Independence Day holiday. For the August Book Station Sale, it will go back to the first Friday and Sat. of August.

Rules for purchase of books from the Book Station: The FOL will revisit this item at the July meeting. Discussion centered around people who sort books and would like to purchase some when sorting. Previously the FOL voted to have the sale of books only at Book Station sales. The idea was for fair and equitable way to offer the donated books to people. It was mentioned that some people buy books at the Book Station and then sell them at a much higher price. At the same time, FOL receives a lot of books and we want to get them out to the public and not be overwhelmed with too many books at the Book Station.

Pricing of books at the sales. Since Covid came along, we have had the policy of books offered “by donation”. In some instances workers at the sales needed to prompt a few customers with a reminder of the traditional pricing... \$1 per hardback, etc.

Now that Covid restrictions will be lifting, the group discussed whether to return to individual pricing for books. The group agreed for the June sale to continue the “by donation” procedures. It was pointed out that the revenue from the donation only sales has been very good. But the possibility is there that this could tail off and go down and then if FOL switches to the old pricing, some patrons might perceive this negatively. FOL will look at this at future meetings.

Encouraging Book Station Patrons to Join the FOL: At the most recent sale, a membership envelope was put into the sacks of customers. It was suggested to have a small paper with that info on it to put in for the next book sale.

FOL Window Expenditure: \$2,089.00 is our portion of the cost of new windows at the back alley side of library which were installed in 1950. Montana Paint and Glass is waiting for the windows to arrive. At a previous meeting the FOL approved this.

After TIF grant paid their portion, FOL will pay the remainder. Tracing the funding is an issue.

Maintenance on Front Garden (on 7th Avenue South under library windows): FOL needs some members to volunteer to take care of this... weeding, keeping bell-flower down, etc. This would be approximately once a month. Those volunteering could do the first weeding session with Dani, who has been taking care of the garden. Anyone interested?

Library Director Search: Mary Frieze said there are some good candidates and the library board will be interviewing four people next week (June 2-4). Two of them are from Montana.

Town And Country Grocery Store June “cause”: Each month their employees decide on a particular nonprofit or other cause to which to donate the tips from their coffee bar. June is the Friends of the Library. We will have a sign and also some envelopes and membership letters available there.

Movie Matinees – time to start? Kari Denison from the Library staff is in charge of this. A generous friend donated money to have family movies quarterly at the Judith Theater.

Donna brought up the starting time of the monthly FOL meetings. It was decided to change the FOL meetings to begin at 1pm. This helps avoid the lunch hour issues for some of those who attend.

Next FOL meeting will be Wed. June 30th at **1pm.**

Minutes Respectfully submitted,
Maryjo Hamling Secretary FOL