

Minutes for Friends of the Lewistown Public Library Meeting June 30, 2021

Attending: Dani Buehler, Sandy Birkland, Charlotte Carroll, Angie Eakins, Mary Friese, Tony Gies, MaryJo Hamling, Arlene Mari, Mary Mendell, Claudia Tate

Welcome: President Arlene Mari welcomed everyone. Minutes and Agendas were distributed. A get well card was passed around to sign for Jim Hansen, who had recent knee surgery. Minutes were approved. (motion by Mary F., 2nd by Tony Gies)

Treasurer's Report: Tony G. reported the balance is \$23,886.78 which includes \$1,000 that is earmarked for next Summer's reading program.

Director's Report:

For next year's budget, Brittney U. and one of the board members will present this at the end of August to the City Commission. Budget work went smoothly. There has been a big improvement in the last three years with the Memo of understanding being in place now. In the past, budgeting process was difficult. The library will continue to work with Fergus County for their share of the support for the library funding. This is approximately \$50,000. Some of this goes to subscription services and Library to Go program costs and \$7,000 to internet costs. There is ARPA Act money coming from the federal government that is earmarked for infrastructure, so Internet/telecommunications would come under this.

The windows to be replaced at the back of the library will be done when the supplies arrive. The library has been recabled for the Internet, wiifi and computers. There are new routers, switches and access points to be installed.

Benchmark Masonry is working on the entryway upstairs on the exterior of the building. The scrolls (florettes) were done in 1905, so are long overdue to be upgraded. MT History Foundation grant covers 80% of the costs for this work.

Table at the Central MT Fair (Trade Center): Some of the staff will be at the table on Wed. July 28th. Dani asked if FOL members would be interested in staffing the table on the 29th or 30th. Details will be firmed up very soon.

Summer Reading Program: There is great participation in the program. Several activities including birding at Brewery Flats and making flannel animals have occurred.

Lots of patrons have been using the library. There are many new patrons. Usually there are 10-12 new ones per month but in May of this year there were 42!

New Chairs, etc.: Dani had a quote on 36 event chairs and 3 dollies (each holds 12 chairs), 8 new vinyl chairs for downstairs and 2 new ones for adult fiction area. The quote was for \$4600. This company, which is a supplier to government agencies, requires nonprofits such as FOL to pay prior to shipping.

June Book Sale Report: June 4 (Friday) \$486.00
June 5 (Saturday) 291.00
Total: \$777.00 !!!!

FOL has found out that consistently the Friday sales bring in higher revenue than Saturdays. New hours were observed with the Friday sale beginning one hour earlier – noon till 5:30 and Sat. shortened hours 9am till 12:30 pm. The old hours of going till 2pm on Sat. found that very few shoppers came in the afternoon.

For the July Sale 7/9: Noon till 2:30pm Angie Eakins and Mary Jo H.
2:30 pm till 5 pm Charlotte Carroll and Mary Koltze
7/10: 9am till 12:30 pm Tony and Louise Gies

Library Director Search Update: The Library board has hired Alissa Wolenetz. She is originally from Ekalaka MT, Dani and Brittney have a plan for transition and orientation for the new director. She will be arriving for the job in August.

Bookmarks: At book sales, the workers have been giving out the FOL envelopes for membership to shoppers. Mary F. designed new bookmarks that can be given to people when they checkout at the sales. There is a clever book themed quote on one side and info about FOL membership on the other side. The group agreed to order bookmarks to have on hand.

Teen Group at Boys and Girls Club: Abby Franks spoke to MaryJo about possibly having this group which meets each Tuesday evening come to the Book Station at one of their gatherings. They could possibly do some community service, possibly sweeping or dusting, and then get a tour so they know about all the different books and other resources available. We will check into this further with the person who is in charge of this group. Can be a good way to reach different segments of the population.

Generous Gift: The library received a \$25,000 gift from Ed and Phyllis Evans, longtime Lewistown residents, and was deposited in the Library's Central MT Foundation account and has unrestricted use.

Chairs: For the July book sale, the old chairs from upstairs in the library will be brought over to the Book Station and available to sale. The ones that were in the worst condition have been discarded.

Spika Manufacturing Day of Service July 15: On this annual day of service, their employees volunteer at nonprofits. Last year they helped sort books from the outdoor sales and did cleaning and window washing, etc. Tony Gies will coordinate with them. The plan is to move some heavy items out of the small area at the back of the station so that shelving can be put in. They will have muscle-power and trucks to haul away those old items remaining from when the building was a service station.

A thank you was sent to Town Pump Foundation for their awarding a grant to the library for Summer Reading Program. Also, a thank you was sent to Donna Philip for planting flowers out front of the Book Station (they look lovely). Donna also waters them.

Meeting was adjourned. Next FOL meeting will be on July 28th.