

Minutes for Friends of the Library for Sept. 29, 2021

Attending: Sandy Birkland, MaryJo Hamling, Arlene Mari, Bob and Claudia Tate, Alissa Wolenetz
Minutes and agendas were distributed. Arlene called the meeting to order at 1 pm. The minutes were approved (motion by Sandy B., second by MaryJo)

Treasurer's Report: Tony Gies sent the following info: Balance of \$21,548.23.

Results of Sept. 3 and 4 Book sale:

Friday 9/3	\$528.00
Saturday 9/4	<u>\$376.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$904.00</u>

The upcoming book sale will be 10/1 and 10/2.

Workers: Friday Noon till 2:30 pm	Ronna Anthony and Charlotte Carroll
2:30 till 5 pm	Andrea Payne and Angie Eakins
Saturday: 9am till 12:30 pm:	Tony Gies and Helper

Book Station Discussion:

A major reorganization and culling of old books was done for more space for new items. Donna and Neil P. have devoted many hours to this. We've asked the library staff when bringing in donations dropped off to please place them in our shed (they have a key) in the back left corner where the signs are (as opposed to lining them up along the back wall of the Book Station).

Lost books: There were some children's books from the library accidentally returned to the book drop at the Book Station in late Aug. They were probably sold during the Sept. 3 and Sept. 4 book sale. We put up signs in the book station asking people who shopped at this sale to please check any books they purchased. Those that belong to the library will still have the library call number on their spine plus the library info. on the inside of the book's front cover. We also searched the Book Station for those books and Misty A. from the library staff did as well.

Request from food truck: Hungry Hideaway (Heidi Hatcher 350 – 1991) would like to set up food truck around the book sale; she offers street tacos, burritos, etc. She has insurance coverage up to \$2 million. She thought this would be beneficial to all of us. The library and FOL did some checking. Because the Book Station lot belongs to the city, this cannot be done, so we will let Heidi know this.

Since the Book Station parking lot belongs to the city and is mainly there for the use by patrons of the library and book station volunteers or shoppers, it seems that this parking lot should not be just open to any people who might be across the street at businesses there. Possibly the city will do signage about this. Library will talk with the Coffee Shop people.

Book Sales in the coming winter months: We discussed this. If Covid cases were to increase a lot, FOL could go back to having by appointment only sales at the Book Station. People were happy to come to those sales.

Santa's Seconds Sale: Discussion was held. A possible location for the sale could be the Judith Mountain Players building at 3rd and Barnes (formerly a senior citizens center where dances were held). There is a need for quite a few workers for this type of sale and some of the FOL members who have helped in the past would like to bow out of this project. No decision was made at this time. In the past, this sale was held the same day as the Dec. book sale(first Sat. of Dec.) – but upstairs in the library. Storage of all the merchandise is a problem. Also, the first Sat. of Dec. is very busy with Festival of Trees and other community events.

Library Board discussion of possible Chili Bowl ideas: They are brainstorming on what would be a good community event. The Chili Bowl came up. Someone indicated that FFA or 4H could cater this or do the cooking (the kids need to do community service). We could give a donation for them doing this. There are groups that we could contact who would love to come up with the questions.

Claudia mentioned the author dinner event. Those at this meeting agreed the author dinner was a very popular event. The silent auction brought in money for the good of the library. The Elks Club received most of the money from the admission for serving the food. Claudia suggested there could be an event that is art, author and appetizers rather than a full supper.

Director's Report:

Windows at the back of the library (by the alley) have been replaced. Part of this is grant money. The cost was higher than expected and the FOL agreed in the past to help with this project. Alissa will keep us posted on costs of this and what our share is.

Alissa distributed a sheet listing projects and other items currently happening at the library:

Projects:

Meeting Room: 36 Chairs were purchased. The library is promoting use of the space for meetings, classes

Talked with local schools: Lewistown Public Schools 3rd grades are scheduled regularly plus rural schools

Coding and tech programming

Student internships and employment through Fergus High School

Volunteering for credit through Junior High School

SAT/ACT online prep courses for schools across the county

Some of these are an issue for costs for schools with low no. of students

Outreach to Grass Range and Denton – possibly have a courier bring materials

Bringing displays and student projects into the library (classwork, FCCLA or other club projects)

Extension:

Kids programming – art displays, tech classes and science offerings

Adults – cooking classes, outreach at city-wide events (Bright Country Nights, Winter Fair)

Space Exploration sessions – possibly with 4H – could include photography classes

Montana Cattle Women's Association

Humanities Montana

Upcoming meeting is soon

Lewistown is the current Hometown Humanities city for the state of MT this year. But Humanities

Montana had to slow things down due to concerns of Covid (not sending speakers out due to this).

Hiring at the Library:

There is a position that is open and applications are available at Job Service. Closes Oct. 4th.

Library is currently down 1.5 positions

County Commissioners: Alissa spoke with them and introduced herself. Possibly some work about noxious weeds can be done through the library.

Also, programming about media literacy and finding solid research was mentioned. Humanities Montana has programming related to this topic.

Library Building:

DES (Disaster and Emergency Services)

Fire Alarm System – library has 4 fire extinguishers.

The City Fire dept. will be coming this week to meet and inspect the library. If they find things needed, FOL can assist with the costs.

Maintenance throughout the building – Alissa asked if any of us know of particular specific locations or items around the library that need attention.

The group mentioned the flat plaza area outdoors upstairs. The grout between the cobblestones dries out and peels up. FOL volunteers in the past cleaned this area a couple times each summer and cleaned out the drains. Possible winterizing?

The re-surfacing of the outside of the building was done 2 years ago. But the job was not satisfactory and already there are places where it has chipped or is unsealed. One place is near the main entrance down low on the building near the outdoor garbage can and bench area. Before winter hits, it would be good to address this.