

Friends of the Library Minutes for Meeting on March 30,2022

Those attending: Angie Eakins, Mary Frieze, Tony Gies, MaryJo Hamling, Arlene Mari, Mary Messina, Andrea Payne, Donna Philips, Sue Standley, Claudia Tate, Alissa Wolenetz

Welcome: President Arlene Mari welcomed all and distributed minutes and agendas. Meeting called to order at 1 pm.

Disposition of Minutes of Feb. meeting: Motion was made (by MaryJo H., 2nd by Andrea P.) and passed to accept the February minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Tony Gies reported the balance is \$30,454.88. He reported that for calendar year 2022 for membership drive, the FOL has received \$4,298 so far. This is above what FOL collected last year, which was \$4,160.

Tony and Library Director Alissa evaluated needs of the library around the building. The items include possibly fixing up a break room for employees, updating bathrooms, and outside there is a need for patching the exterior surface of the building. Also, there is a need to redo the garden that is along the windows of the building on the 7th Avenue South side.

The Library board has a building committee and in 2017 \$70,000 was spent to resurface the outside of the building. Right away there were issues with holes, bubbling and cracking. The contractor who did the work is from Livingston and the library attempted to get them to come and fix things, but they did not. Alissa also explained there is a problem with the outdoor stairs where work was done last summer to smooth out a step. But a crack was made bigger. Andrea P. moved we refer this to the lib. Building committee. This was 2nded and approved.

Director's Report:

Imagination Library through Dolly Parton Foundation

There is a grant application to the Central MT Foundation for \$10,000 to fund this program which would send a book a month to all children ages 0-5 years old. Letters of support are included. A motion carried (made by Donna P., 2nd by Angie E.) for FOL to apply for this grant. There are also other groups in the area who are willing to donate to help with this.

Sue Standley explained about the program and how important it is to have young children to have access to books. This program can be discontinued at any time.

It is estimated there would be 700 children in the county with a cost of \$2.10 per child.

The FOL would be the nonprofit which is involved with this program.

Sponsorship for Summer Reading Program prizes:

In the past, FOL has contributed toward summer reading program. (Chili Bowl and Author Dinner fundraising helped with this.)

Schools and Kids: Summer reading program theme this year is Oceans of Possibility.

STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) Camp will be held in August.

Library has a \$1,00 robotics grant for this.

Humanities events:

Poet Chris LaTray spoke and this was very successful. Thirty people attended, which is the largest in-person group activity since 2018.

Upcoming speaker Lailani Upham will be here for a storytelling workshop on April 17.

And on April 28th there will be a Humanities MT workshop.

Adult Programming:

The Welcome to Lewistown Book Club continues to meet and the Final Thursdays of each month Writers Group for adults is meeting regularly.

Lewistown Training and Education Coalition (TEC) is looking at Job retraining grants and adult education offerings.

Book Station Book Sales:

Results of the March 4/5 book sale: total of \$792.00

Upcoming book sale will be Friday 4/1 and Saturday 4/2.

Workers: Friday Noon till 2:30 pm:	Diane Brodd and Doreen Heintz
2:30 pm till 5 pm;	Andrea Payne and Angie Eakins
Saturday: 9am till 12:30 pm:	Tony Gies, Arlene Mari and new volunteer Gracie Howells

Book Station Sale discussion:

No scanning devices allowed in the Book Station. This is in response to booksellers issue. Signs will be posted and this information will be included in all advertising for our sales.

The FOL group wants to provide books for local people to be able to read. The booksellers buying the books take books out of distribution in the local area and away from area residents who support the library. Locals who donate books to FOL expect FOL to have these available for other locals to buy.

For ads for the April book sale, Arlene arranged with the News Argus to have a paid ad (cost of \$45) to advertise the procedures so all will know.

Fol has a list of Book Station Rules and Regulations.

The Friends of the Library Mission Statement is:

The Friends of the Lewistown Public Library's mission is to help the Lewistown Public Library be the best it can be through its volunteerism and fundraising activities;
to promote literacy and good will in the Central MT community through its monthly books sales and sponsorship of library activities;
and to be a public voice for the library's needs.

Thanks to Donna P. for crafting this statement. The Mission Statement was adopted unanimously (motion by Mary F., Angie E. 2nd).

Library Matters:

Arlene let the group know that the MMIA (Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority) met in March and informed the city of Lewistown and the library board that they will not continue to insure libraries. So Alissa and the Library Board will be exploring what the library's options are. The State Library Association will also be looking into this.

Next Meeting of FOL will be Wednesday April 27th at 1pm in the upstairs meeting room.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: MaryJo Hamling, Secretary