

Friends of the Library (FOL) Meeting Minutes for July 27, 2022

In Attendance: FOL members Sandy Birkland, Angie Eakins, Mary Frieze, Tony Gies, MaryJo Hamling, Mary Messina, Cathy Moser, Andrea Payne, Donna Philip, Rachel Stansberry, Claudia Tate, and Brittney Uecker, from the Library Staff. Attending for the first time were Fran and Arnon Hurwitz. This was an excellent (if unexpected) turnout.

Donna Philip, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 1 pm. in the absence of President Arlene Mari. Copies of minutes, agendas and the Director's Report were distributed.

Minutes from the June 29th meeting were approved (motion by Andrea P, 2nd Mary M.)

Treasurer's Report: Tony Gies reported the balance is \$34,641.52.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Brittney Uecker gave the report for Director Alissa W.

Project Updates:

1. **Imagination Library (Dolly Parton program)**

Arlene and Tony have completed all the necessary paperwork. It was approved by Dolly Parton's I.L. Sue and Alissa are now registered users in their online system, and are learning how to sign children up and manage book orders. To save time, program is limited to online registration. Participants will be able to register online on the library computers if unable to do so at home. A few forms will be available for people who can't register here or online.

Bills: A large balance will be credited to the Dolly Parton Foundation and monthly invoices will be paid from that balance.

Funding Summary: A source of long-term funding is from the permanent endowment created at CMF (Central MT Foundation) by the Friends' 2,500 donation. Enough funds have been raised for short-term funding to begin the program. This includes \$5,000 grant from CMF; tips from Central MT Fair Beer Gardens and up to \$1,500 in matching funds from Central Mt Jaycees; \$1,871 from Fergus County Prevention Program; \$629 from Fergus Federal Credit Union; and \$500 from Kiwanis.

Promotion and Program Launch: We will have a program teaser during the Fair on Thursday July 28th from noon till 6 pm at the Expo in the Trade Center.

Registrations will go live and a roll out event will be held during Chokecherry on Sat. Sept. 10th from 10am till 2pm on the Library patio.

2. **Annual Library Planning:** Staff and Board are working on annual plans for Library programming (closures, building maintenance and Board activities). This includes displays, events and guest speakers. Planning will be completed by early September.
3. **Summer Reading Program:** This went very well, with 232 young people and 96 adults registered., which is a large turnout. Businesses generously donated prizes. Every Tuesday there was a program for kids 6 – 11 years old and there was a large turnout each time (50 - 60).
4. The MOU (Memo of Understanding) between the library and the city was passed by the City Commission at the 6/20/22 meeting! Thank you for all the support during this process.

Building Updates:

Cathy Moser, Library Board Member, has been researching the EIFS issues on the exterior of the building and has contacted a specialist to review the building exterior. She has convened several meetings of the Building Committee. Cathy gave the update. On July 26th, Chris Lewis (the rep. For Total Wall Co.) came to Lewistown and inspected the exterior and the issues (cracking and letting water underneath). He gave us good news, in that it would be possible for a *Total Wall* certified applicator company to repair the problems and advised us to contract with a certified applicator company. There are companies available in MT that are certified. The next step is writing an invitation for bid. (We noted that the FOL is willing to continue to help financially with this.)

Patty Turk, seasonal summer library employee, has been helping with the flower bed on the 7th Avenue side of the building, and has also re-caulked the sinks, filled in, sanded and repainted damaged areas of the interior; found wasp nests around the outside of the building and arranged for them to be sprayed; and has joined the Building Committee. Her past work as a Library board member and city commissioner is very helpful.

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BOOK STATION: Results of the July 1 and 2 sale: \$791.00

Upcoming Book Sale:

Friday 8/5	12:00 – 2:30 pm	Sandy Birkland, Ruth Harbour & Gracie Howells
	2:30 pm – 5 pm	Angie Eakins & Andrea Payne
Saturday 8/6	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	Tony and Louise Gies

At the middle of the Month One-Day Book Sale on Friday July 15, we made \$401.00.

This was well received and shoppers were happy that FOL had another sale.

It was decided to do another Middle of the Month Sale for August, on Friday August 12th from noon till 5pm. This is a good date since Cowboy Poetry will be going on then, plus other visitors will be in town.

Plan is to put up the big white tent and have items for sale in it – collectibles and gardening books. Also, have hardback mystery books on a buy-one-get one free basis. This will require a couple of extra days sorting the week beginning Aug. 7. Workers for the sale will need lots of \$1.00 bills for this Aug. 12th sale and no \$20s. We will have a large cooler/tub with ice and \ bottles of water and a donation jar.

Workers for the Aug. 12th sale: Mary Messina – starting at noon and Angie and Andrea will work the 2nd shift. Additional help will be needed for the tent sale.

Discussion was held about the two sandwich board signs FOL puts out on sale days. One is very heavy and hard to manage. Brittney has lots of signs with wires for sticking in the ground that were used for the storyboard walk on the trails that can be used.

Town and Country Grocery Store Donation Program:

They earmarked their coffee bar and ice cream bar tips as well as their bring-your-own-bags and donate 5 cents per bag to the charity of the month, which was the Friends of the Library for the month of May. Tips were \$201.00 and bags donations were \$36.00 for a total of \$237.

Library Matters:

Library Board wants to have a Chili Bowl event (supper and trivia night with teams) in January. They will have this as a catered event and will get a trivia book for questions. Brittney is willing to help with questions. The public has been asking for this. Past Chili Bowls were very well attended and people enjoyed them.

They want to have an Author's Event in May with a Humanities Speaker as the main attraction (no cost for the speaker). Possibly appetizers will be served instead of a dinner plus a silent auction will be held. In past years, the auction was the part that brought in funds for the library. Most of the ticket price went to the venue to pay for the food. The cost was \$45 or \$50 per person. Alissa and Brittney will be attending Library meetings in Missoula next week and plan to speak with John Knight, the new director of Humanities Montana for ideas on choice of speaker.

Discussion was held about allowing people to shop for books while FOL workers are sorting books at the Book Station. It was noted that this could interfere with the sorting and become a problem. Also, if any shoppers tripped or fell over boxes this would be a liability issue. It was agreed by the group to NOT allow shopping during the sorting sessions.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm. Next FOL meeting will be Wed. Aug. 31st at 1 pm in upstairs meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJo Hamling, Secretary