

Friends of the Library (FOL) Meeting Minutes for July 26, 2023

Attending: Sandy Birkland, Angie Eakins, Tony Gies, Arlene Mari, Mary Messina, MaryJo Hamling, Cathy Moser, Donna Philip, Glynn Wolar, Brittney Uecker

V. P. Donna P. welcomed all and called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were approved (Angie E. motion, 2nd by Brittney)

Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$47,344.37. There were some costs to promote the July special MT History and Collectible book sale. Bill for \$112.20 for the News Argus ad.

Director's Report: Brittney presented this in Director Alissa W.'s absence.

Summer reading program went very well. One of the last events for this was a free day at the city swimming pool, where 260 people participated.

Imagination Library (Dolly Parton Foundation) Books for kids 0 – 5 yr olds.

Fergus County: 227 active, 26 graduated

Petroleum County: 3 active, 0 graduated

Golden Valley: 7 active, 0 graduated

Local Jaycees are donating Beer Garden tips again this year.

Programming: Summer Reading Program had over 250 registrations and over 500 program attendances

Staff is currently working on annual programming and staff priority plans for departments and will keep you posted as those progress.

Building Update: Library plans to apply for a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) in the November cycle.

Other updates: Library is currently in budget season and staff have been working with the City and the County on this year's budget requests.

Upcoming Committees: Chili Bowl - -work begins in August

Author Dinner – Begins in November

Book Sales:

Results of June 30 book sale:	\$ 383.00	
July 1 book sale:	299.00	\$682.00
Results of sale of MT books & collectibles:	<u>275.00</u>	
	957.00 total	

Results of July 14th mid-month Friday sale: \$360.00

Upcoming August book sale:

Friday 8/04: noon – 2:30 pm

2:30 - 5:00 pm

Angie Eakins and Andrea Payne

Saturday 8/05: 9am till 12:30 pm

Tony & Louis Gies

Book Station related items:

Instead of storing the many MT/Western history and collectible books for a sale only once or twice a year, it was decided to put them on the shelves near the doorway to the office where checkout/cashiers are. They would be individually priced. Currently Humor is in that location, but those books do NOT seem to sell.

It was decided to move some of the humor to a location above the Harlequin romances on the East wall of the book station and to weed out some.

The Spika Manufacturing people are willing to come again to Book Station during their day of service and work on projects including taking the book drop to their work site and sandblasting it and painting it. Jim Hanson also has plans to raise the book drop slightly so the door has better clearance, esp. in winter when there is ice.

Angie brought up the issue that some shoppers would like to be able to use a credit card, but the FOL does not have that option for them.

Discussion was held about getting more people (including younger people) to help sort and shelve books. The same few loyal sorters continue to do that work.

Comfy Chairs: The five new chairs ordered from Wier Furniture have arrived & are being stored in their warehouse until we are ready for them.

Review of proposed bid sheets for the old chairs. When to have the sale?

It was decided to price these chairs at \$200 or best offer, depending on the condition. Some are in poorer condition than others.

It was decided to have the auction until the end of August. The policy is the buyer hauls away the old chair after purchase.

Mid-Month Book Sale for August: Friday August 18.

This sale will be Buy-One-Get-One Free (or 2 for the price of one). This should help to get books moved out of the station and make room for the many that are filling the shed.

Volunteers: noon till 2:30 pm: Pam Koterba & Gidget Sannar
(MaryJo will unlock & help stow donations that come in.)

2:30 pm – 5 pm: Angie E. and Andrea P.

Group agreed to keep the same hours (noon till 5pm) even though the

Hot Summer Nights event is happening that evening from 4 pm till 8 pm.

So far FOL has made \$592.00 from our mid month summer book sales. Feedback has been positive. Angie shared that the shoppers really are happy about having a chance to buy books at these sales.

Promotion of the book sales: It was suggested to advertise our sales on Facebook, Instagram, etc. to gain the attention of the younger generation. Our sales have been advertised on Hidden Montana site online (thanks to Drew K.) Arlene will check with him about continuing to advertise on social media and online.

Upcoming Committees: Alissa will be looking for volunteers to help with the Chili Bowl (usually held in January) and volunteers to assist with the Author's Dinner in May. She wants to get an early start on this. So if you are interested in either, please let her know.

Special thank you to Donna and Neil Philip for all their hard work in researching and pricing and putting out the Montana books and collectibles, as well as working during the July sale.

Arlene received a letter from MOFE (Montanans Organized for Education) a nonprofit, nonpartisan group who are concerned about legislation, including HB 234.

FOL members are welcome to attend the Library Board meetings, which are open to the public.

Brittney explained that the library staff are reviewing the policies and forms the library has in place.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is Wed. August 30 at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted: MaryJo Hamling, Secretary

