

Friends of the Lewistown Public Library Minutes for Meeting on August 30, 2023

Attending: Angie Eakins, Tony Gies, MaryJo Hamling, Drew Kettering, Arlene Mari, Mary Mendel, Andrea Payne

President Arlene Mari called the meeting to order. Agendas and minutes of the previous meeting were distributed. Minutes of July meeting were approved (motion by Angie, 2nd by Mary M.)

Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$45,577.47

Director's Report: Drew K. presented the report.

Projects: Imagination Library: The Jaycees donated \$1,002 from the Beer Garden at the Fair to the DPIL endowment available balance.

Statistics: Fergus County 239 active children age 0 – 5; 1,620 books mailed out since 9/2022.

Golden Valley: 8 active children, 0 graduated, 9 books mailed since May 2023.

Petroleum: 8 active, 0 graduated, 3 books mailed since May 2023.

The Petroleum Co. Library Board of Trustees is excited about the program and willing to coordinate registrations, so Sue and Alissa will be transferring ownership of that program to them.

Programming: Sue A. has wrapped up the WWII book Club. Misty A. will begin a new “Misty's Mysteries” club, focusing on true crime, paranormal stories and mysteries, on Sept. 5th at 6 pm.

Banned Books Week is October 1 – 7, 2023. Alissa is working on a panel in the same vein as last year.

Drew and Alissa are working on a Fergus Co. Cold Cases program series with the News-Argus for late fall (October-November). Will try to involve law enforcement people and show sensitivity to families of people in the cold cases.

Building Update: Cathy M. and Alissa met with an architecture firm to tour the building and further develop the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Professional Architectural Review (PAR). They intend to apply in the November Community Development Block Grant cycle to fund this project. The CDBG (up to \$50,000) requires a 25% match, which Alissa would like to discuss with the FOL at the October meeting.

Other Updates: The Library is currently in budget season and has been working with the City and County on this year's budget requests.

Drew has an update on digitizing local newspapers. This program began ten years ago, and newspapers were digitized up to 1970. Library hopes to get a membership (newspapers.com). After three years, the collection becomes open to the public. It is very expensive to digitize microfilm. The News Argus is willing to assist with this.

Funding Request for Gift for Brittney: Brittney will be leaving in early Sept. for a phenomenal school librarian position in Great Falls. We are very happy for her, but very sad for us.

Alissa would like to request a gift certificate to express appreciation for her time here and all the great work she has put in preparing for the new staff member.

CHIBICO-LOCO COMMITTEE: It is time! Please volunteer to be part of this year's Chili Bowl Logistics and Coordination Committee. It is comprised of at least one FOL member, one LPL Board Member, Alissa and Nancy Sackett. Alissa would like to have committee members set at this meetings and a preliminary budget developed by the Sept. FOL meeting. Mary Mendel has already volunteered.

Book Station Sales:

Results of Aug 4 th book Sale:	\$ 302.00
Results of Aug 5 th book Sale:	<u>273.00</u>
	\$ 595.00
Results of Aug 18 (mid-month Friday only sale)	\$ 375.00

Both of the August sales were Buy-one-Get-One Free which was very popular.

Upcoming September book sale:

Friday 9/01 noon till 2:30 pm

Friday 9/01 2:30 pm – 5pm

Saturday 9/02 9am till 12:30 pm

Volunteers:

Drew Kettering & Mike Chapman

Andrea Payne & Angie Eakins

Tony and Louise Gies

A suggestion was made to consider selling the small paperback books for 10 Cents each rather than the 25 cents we currently charge. These books have not been selling well and the idea was to provide some incentive to move these books. A motion was made (Andrea, 2nd MaryJo) to keep those books at 25 cents each. This motion carried.

Workers for the sale also suggested that FOL advertise that shoppers should bring their own bags for their purchases.

Comfy Chairs: Tomorrow is the last day for us to receive bids on the 5 old upholstered chairs in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Bids will be reviewed and the winners will be notified. After the buyers come and remove those chairs, Wier's will be notified that they can deliver the five new chairs.

Dolly Parton Fund: The Central MT Foundation funds has a total balance of \$6,381 as of July 31st. FOL has access to half of that amount.

Volunteer request: A home schooler, who is 13 years old, would like to help at the Book Station. This prompts the question about liability concerns. Do we need to establish a policy about liability for younger workers at the Book Station – those not covered by RSVP program, which covers those 55 years old or older, if they have signed up. Maybe FOL needs secondary insurance. Arlene contacted Shelly at RSVP in Roundup and she said some locations have a volunteer waiver and release waiver for volunteers to sign.

Parent Concern: A parent was concerned about a book at the Book Station that her daughter found in the children' section. Discussion was held. FOL decided to inform all the workers at sales that if this should happen, the workers should take the book from the person, so FOL can research it.

Spika Manufacturing has expressed interest in helping us again on their Day of Community Service, which should be sometime in September. They had an idea last year for them to take out Book Station book drop to their facility and sand blast it and powder coat it. Angie pointed out that the book drop needs to be placed on a metal rail or base so that the door does not drag on the concrete sidewalk.

It was suggested to ask the TORCH (Together Our Recovery Can Heal) if they would be willing to clean up our grounds around the Book Station before winter (trimming weeds in the rocky areas, sweeping and putting gravel back up into the garden beds. Also possibly have them sweep the outdoor patio of the library building. Right now a few of the FOL volunteers occasionally do these tasks.

Attendees also reminded the group of the need for a new outdoor sign to put out on the sidewalk during Book Sales. The old one is very heavy and unwieldy. All agreed on this.

Requests from the library: Alissa is looking for volunteers to be on the Chili Bowl committee. She would like to get started on planning for this in plenty of time to research venues, etc. Mary Mendel and Andrea said they would be on this committee. Angie is also willing to help.

It has been suggested the Upstairs Reading Room could use some black-out shades on the windows and the door area to restrict light when the Library is hosting movie night or other video screenings. Discussion was held. Floss Kettering is willing to make a donation to take care of this.

Youth Librarian Brittney is moving to a new job in Great Falls. Motion was made and seconded (Mike C, 2nd by Tony G) to buy Brittney a gift card in the amount of \$500.

Motion carried – no one opposed.

Suggestion to have Christy the Wordsmith return to do a program at the library. She has been here before and people enjoyed the presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm

Next Meeting is Wed. Sept. 27th at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted, MaryJo Hamling, Secretary

