

Minutes for Friends of the Library (FOL) meeting on September 27, 2023

Attending: Sandy Birkland, Angie Eakins, MaryJo Hamling, Cathy Moser, Andrea Payne and Library Director Alissa Wolenetz

Secretary MaryJo called the meeting to order at 1 pm (in the absence of Pres. And Vice Pres.) Minutes for August meeting were approved as corrected. (Motion by Sandy, 2nd by Angie)

Treasurer's Report: Tony Gies was not in attendance but sent the report.

Balance is \$46,519.09. We will ask Tony to report on the money brought in for the mid-month Sept. sale at the Oct. meeting.

MaryJo shared the News Argus story on the RSVP annual dinner and Arlene and David Mari receiving the "Dynamic Duo" award.

Director's Report:

Projects:

Imagination Library : This was begun in Sept. 2022. Statistics:

Fergus Co.: 246 active, 34 graduated, 2,000+ books mailed since Sept. 2022.

Golden Valley Co.: 12 active, 0 graduated, 25 books mailed since May 2023.

Petroleum Co.: 13 active, 0 graduated, 14 books mailed since May 2023.

The Treasure State Foundation (First Spouse of MT) will continue till 2027. If that foundation discontinues contributing to this, Lewistown won't be responsible to pay for Petroleum County children.

Sue and Alissa are transferring over the registrations.

Programming: (regular programs)

1st Tuesday – Misty's Mystery Club

2nd Tuesday – Science Fiction and Fantasy Club

3rd Tuesday – Curious Cinema Club

4th Tuesday – A to Z Club

Bonus Screening - 5th Tuesday – Rocky Horror Picture Show – previews at 5:30 & start at 6pm on Halloween.

Annual Banned Books Week is October 1 -7, 2023. Due to staff shortages, we will not be having a panel during that time.

MaryJo brought up that due to the Library being short-staffed, there are FOL members who would probably help as volunteers during this time.

Drew and Alissa are working on a Fergus County Cold Cases program series with the News Argus for late Falls (Oct. - Nov.) They will make sure to be sensitive to families of any missing people.

Building Update: Cathy M. and Alissa plan to apply for the November Community Development Block Grant cycle to fund a PAR (Professional Architectural Review) for the building in the amount of \$50,000. If awarded, the CDBG would provide \$37,000 and the local funds match will provide \$12,500. Alissa is hoping to ask FOL for funds for the match.

They met with Nancy Watts and Floss Kettering to get background info about past renovations including the 1990 one. This was very helpful. Mosaic, the firm that assisted the brewery, also has given them some information.

City Growth Plan: Alissa had postcards explaining this. The Mon. Oct. 2nd City Commission (from 6 pm – 7 pm) will be on this topic. Alissa will be out of town, but some of FOL members attending this meeting will try to go. There is a survey that residents can do.

They can scan this, or go online and print out paper copies. The City hopes to have residents do the survey by mid October. The library will have some paper copies available for patrons.

Funding Request: The library's vacuum cleaner gave up the ghost. The staff would like a light weight vacuum that can be easily carried upstairs and converts into a handheld device for small spills. Motion carried to spend around \$300 for a new vacuum. (motion by Andrea, 2nd by Cathy). Andrea and MaryJo will look into this. We would like to buy locally.

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Chili Bowl CHIBICO-LOCO meeting will be in late October once all members are appointed.

Library Board: possible 2 volunteers. Will discuss at Oct. Board meeting

Staff: Drew Kettering

Director: Alissa

FOL: Mary Mendel, Andrea Payne, Angie Eakins.

MaryJo picked up 64 plastic hot lunch trays and those are in the Book Station Shed.

Book Station Related:

Results of Sept. 1 book sale: \$319.50

Results of Sept. 2 book sale: \$217.00

Total Sept. sale: \$536.50

Results of Sept. 15th (Mid-month) book sale: Was approx. \$300. Will have Tony report on this.

Upcoming October Book Sale: Volunteers:

Friday 10/06: noon – 2:30 pm

2:30 – 5 pm

Angie E. and Andrea P.

Saturday 10/07: 9am till 12:30 pm

Tony And Louise Gies

Needs for Book Station? New Sandwich board signs

Rolling Stool/chair for volunteers to use when shelving books on the lower shelves.

Andrea will check with her husband where they bought theirs.

Five Comfortable Chairs for Upstairs Meeting Room:

The 5 old chairs sold for a total of \$360.00

The new chairs have arrived and Wiers Furniture delivered them. Today we noticed there is a problem with some of them on the front of the arm rests. The front part seems loose. MaryJo will let Wiers know and have them come and take a look.

Younger Book Station potential volunteers:

In continuing to search for a solution to the liability issue involving volunteers under the age of 55, Arlene has had communication from both the Bozeman Friends and Missoula Friends groups. They were helpful. Both told her that the Missoula State Library has never have a claim filed by a volunteer. Missoula sent us a copy of the liability waiver they have. We have tailored this to our group and a copy will be passed around for everyone's review. Comments or recommendations?

MaryJo forgot to make copies, so will email those attending a copy.

Alissa stated that paper-copy waivers are usually not something that hold any weight. She suggested that we contact Ron Miller at Lewistown Insurance about liability insurance for the Station.

Gift Card for Brittney U.: She has started her new job in Great Falls. At the previous meeting, FOL passed a motion to give her a \$500 gift card.

Discussion about recruiting/expanding the base of active FOL members to volunteer at the Book Station.

This could include having some alternate times for volunteers to shelve books, or possibly have FOL members sign up to commit to volunteering during certain months, etc. Alissa shared that the Jaycees sometimes will have another club/group work with/for them and them on projects and then pay that group. It can be a good way to network with others.

MaryJo brought up about the library getting more of the books on the MT Carnegie Libraries to sell. The last one has been sold. Alissa will look into getting more.

Adjourned at 1:55 pm. Motion by Cathy M, 2nd by Angie E. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting will be last Wed. of October 25th.

Thank you to Andrea for taking minutes of this meeting.

