

FRIENDS OF THE L.D. FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes for February 17, 2021

Present: Vicki Wickliffe, Anne Werner, Kathleen O'Hearn, Carol Burrows, Marilyn Sieb
Absent: Beckie Kane, Charlie Roy, Patty Hoggatt, Gerard Saylor

I. Call to order: Vicki called the meeting to order at 1pm

A. Minutes of September 21, 2020 meeting: Motion to approve by Anne, seconded by Kathleen, minutes approved.

B. Treasurer's Report: Charlie was absent

C. Library Director's Input: Gerard did not attend the meeting

D. Library Staff Input:

Marilyn stated that the library will not be re-opening in March. According to the Jefferson County Health Department, the Covid risk is still "very high." When the risk level reaches "high," the library could possibly open two weeks after that announcement. Marilyn thinks re-opening will more likely be in April or May.

Sprouted Seed kits given out in February were quite popular and were soon gone

Book clubs currently meet via Zoom, and Tangled Yarns will resume via Zoom in March. Both programs will meet in the park as soon as weather permits.

Per new CDC guidelines, quarantine on books and other library materials can be reduced to one day.

II. Old Business

A. Used Book Sales:

Anne reported sales at the Market of \$63.25 in December and \$53.50 in January. Vicki added \$27.25 at the Market and \$8.25 at the library for November. Anne said donations continue to trickle in from various sources. When these run out, she suggested putting a call out to the community for donations via an article in the Leader.

III. New Business

A. Library Staff Request for Funds (Youth Services) for 2021:

Becca will make a presentation tonight at the Parks Board Meeting regarding a “Story Walk”

project in a local park. Marilyn explained that this is for kids, and the cost estimate is anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Funding could come from various community groups including the FOL.

The Board has already approved a request of \$800 for craft supplies. Marilyn said this would include money for “Grab & Go Craft Kits” that have been very popular, and staff would add the FOL as a sponsor on the craft kit labels. At this time, there are no plans for any children's inperson activities even in the park, including Read, Rhyme & Rhythm. However, staff does have some kids' Zoom programs lined up.

Regarding the request for Die Cuts & Mat, Marilyn said staff does have some of the equipment, but would like to add more supplies to continue to have craft projects available. Buttons are very popular at other libraries; thus the request for Button Maker and supplies.

The request for the rolling walker with basket and seat is for those patrons with mobility issues who come through the back door. They would be able to use the walker to go to the front of the library much more easily and then be able to sit down to look at the shelves.

Vicki said Charlie had indicated that part of the \$8,200 in LM Market Round-Up money could be used toward some of these requests. No decision was made on what/if the FOL should fund.

B. Information from Jefferson County Friends Groups:

Vicki solicited input from the various groups and distributed information sheets with their input.

Johnson Creek's president shared their plan to sponsor “Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.” This program targets birth to 5 years and means getting a book in the mail every month including some bilingual books. There is no cost to families. Fort Atkinson and Whitewater have already implemented this program. Funding can come from community organizations and other sources. Vicki will email a link to the Johnson Creek document.

C. Announcements and Miscellaneous

- A. Scholarship: Kathleen reported that applications are in the guidance offices at LMHS and at Lakeside Lutheran. Due date is April 12, and an article regarding the scholarship was in last week's Leader. *She felt consideration could be given to including the FOL scholarship application in the high school's general scholarship application program.* Kathleen questioned whether or not Lakeside should continue to be eligible for our scholarship as their students typically are not involved in the LM community. However, Marilyn said that some of the past library pages have been from Lakeside. Kathleen thought that perhaps some of the scholarship criteria could be revised.

Currently, more points are awarded to students interested in early childhood. Kathleen asked Vicki to email the scholarship criteria/application to board members. Vicki noted that scholarship criteria for Marshall is included in the Jefferson County handout.

Vicki reported the following:

- Despite our letter to Corporate Friends informing them we were suspending our 2021 campaign, we received a \$100 donation from Fiberdome and \$350 from Forest Landscaping. Anne sent thank you letters. There was discussion as to whether these two donors should be acknowledged in the Leader, so this item will be on a future agenda. Their names will be posted on the library website.
- A photo was published in the Leader last October featuring Vicki and Steve Wilke with a proclamation for National Friends of the Library Week October 18-24, 2020.
- There was a photo in the Leader of Anne and Kathleen Hansen for our \$300 donation to the LM Food Pantry.
- A thank you letter was received from the Jefferson County Literacy Council for our donation resulting from adult summer reading program incentives.
- A letter was received from the University of Illinois Foundation for our \$100 donation in memory of Paul Saylor.

Garden Tour: The board discussed the possibility of a 2021 garden tour since this is an outdoor event. Vicki will contact those on her list of possible garden hosts to see if there is interest.

Plant Sale: Anne asked if a plant sale might be possible if the garden tour doesn't pan out this year. There still might be the issue of "jumping worms" that would not allow this. Perhaps we could contact Hope Oostdik or Bernie Williams (DNR employee who lives in Lake Mills) regarding this issue.

D. Next Board Meeting Date and Place: We agreed to meet in-person in March, date and place to be determined.

IV. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm

Minutes prepared by Anne Werner

Addendum: The following business was conducted via email since the September, 2020, meeting.

- \$100 for Paul Saylor Memorial (6 yes, 1 non-response)
- \$105.50 for holiday roping for lightposts in front of the library (approved unanimously)
- \$300 donation to LM Food Pantry (6 yes, 1 no; Vicki voted no because she felt this donation did not meet the mission of the Friends)
- \$200 for prizes for the Beanstack Mindfulness Program (approved unanimously)
- \$100 membership in the LM Chamber of Commerce (approved unanimously)

