

Friends of the Library

July 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Biondo at 7:08 p.m. Members present were: Donna Biondo, Annette Bland, Lisa Bromley, Stephanie DuVall, Kelli Elmore, Barb Gerstenecker, Kathleen Habermehl, Mary Holtkamp, Jack Hunt, Rebecca Hunt, Jan Korneta, Jenny Schmidt, Vicki Simpson, Crystal Snyder, and Vicki Wegner.

Reading of the Minutes: Minutes from the April 24, 2023 meeting were read by substitute Secretary, Mary Holtkamp. Vicki Wegner made a motion to accept the minutes and Vicki Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Mary Holtkamp read 3 thank you notes to the membership. The first being from Songs4Soldiers for our donation of \$500.00 (Silver Sponsorship) to the upcoming S4S concert. Two letters of appreciation were read from Geri Mueth, and Stephanie DuVall regarding the bonus given during National Library Week to all Library staff.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Barb Gerstenecker, was experiencing a bit of laryngitis so members present perused the 4/18/23 - 6/30/23 report independently. No objections or questions were voiced. Barb commented that quite a bit of money had accumulated in the Dieterich Bank checking account and she recommended that some of that money needed to be moved to the Edward Jones Account (General Fund). Vicki Wegner motioned that \$15,000.00 be moved to the Edward Jones Account with Kelli Ellmore seconding. Motion carried. Barb also opened a discussion about the current accounting firm, Schorb and Schmersahl who have been doing the taxes for the Friends for a number of years not completing our taxes in a timely manner. This tardiness has resulted in numerous late fees and frustration. Barb would like to investigate other accounting options. Members present agreed and she will proceed. Kathleen Habermehl motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and Jenny Schmidt seconded.

Librarian's Report: Annette Bland presented her report to the group. There are two new hires to the Library staff, Rita Hoguet-Killy and Theresa Weekley. As of May 1st we have had 11 patrons participate in the Non-Resident Library Card Scholarship Program. Annette also announced that the Columbia Public Library has been nominated in the Best Small Town Library in America contest. Annette is hopeful that we will have good news in August. The winning library will be awarded \$5,000.00 and runners up will be awarded \$1,000.00. Stephanie and Angela gave out hot dogs at the July 4th Bike Parade. Two Orion telescopes will soon be available for circulation and check out. Annette discussed the Columbia Days Parade. The librarians and any Friends who would like to participate need to let Annette know as soon as possible. The parade is August 19th at 4:00. Staff and Friends will be riding in the parade, no walking required. The Library was used as a cooling station during the recent storm and power outage. The staff manned the Library and over 100 people took advantage of the cool air and companionship. During the month of June 69 new cards were issued and already 45 for July. Crystal highlighted the Community Partners and Sponsors of the Summer Reading Program, 59 business, organizations, and individuals helped to make the program a success. The number of patrons registered for Summer Reading totaled 843 up from 842 in 2022. Event attendance at the Library since May totals 2,835 patrons attending 93 different programs. The Summer Book Sale took in \$423.95 and the Donation Box totaled \$145.00. A patron, Kim Gordan, donated several large poster prints to the Library to be sold as a fundraiser. The posters are of the famous Life magazine print of the kiss during the V-J Day celebration in 1945. Volunteers will be needed to work the Book Sale at Festifall. After Festifall the remaining books will be sorted and donated to St. Vincent DePaul.

Old Business: Substitute Secretary Mary Holtkamp read through the changes to the by-laws to the members present. The second reading of the by-law changes will be conducted at the October 23 meeting and a vote to accept or reject the changes will take place at that time. Rebecca Hunt questioned the clause about the Distribution of Assets. Who decides how the money is spent if the Friends dissolve? Members present concluded that those decisions will be made by the staff of the Library in conjunction with the Library Board. Mary reminded members working at the Membership Booth that the orange folder may be found in the Friends mailbox.

New Business: Crystal will add the Friends minutes to the Library website in the near future. Stephanie DuVall informed the members present of the author signed book to be donated to the basket to be raffled at Festifall. Kathleen Habermehl will put a basket together with all kinds of fun things and submit the receipts to Barb Gerstenecker. Workers will be needed for Festifall and after October 123rd to sort books for donation to St. Vincent DePaul. Debbie Row will send an email requesting volunteers. Members present expressed a desire to conduct the October 23 meeting outdoors in Metter Park with snacks provided by any member desiring to do so. The basement meeting room will be used as a default in the case of bad weather.

Next Meeting: October 23, 2023, - Metter Park pavilion.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Vicki Simpson and seconded by Vicki Wegner at 8:25 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Holtkamp, Substitute Secretary of FOL