

Friends of Onondaga Free Library
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date: November 1, 2023

Present:

Directors: Sheila Gaudons, Barbara Leigh, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Taylor and John Thornton

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Deb Carey, Lore DePalo, Margaret Farrell and Cara Kirkby

Absent: George Bain, Barbara Leigh and Donna Zeolla

The meeting opened at 7:00PM. We welcomed the new Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Margaret Farrell. We are very pleased that she came to our meeting. The minutes were read online and Susan M. asked that we eliminate the paragraph about the new I-pad. A motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Barb L, seconded by Sheila G. and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: George B. (via online) and Pam M.

George is able to split NRD Media from the book sale money. We have made over \$750.00 since partnering with Nate. Here are the finances through today's deposit. Our current checking account balance is \$13,473.88. This compares to \$12,679.52 as of Oct. 27, 2022. Gifts to the library this year are \$15,472.20. That compares to gifts of \$13,927.84 a year ago. We paid for renewal of our bulk mail permit and added \$190 to the account in a \$500 payment. Disposal of 1.17 tons of unsold used books cost \$117. Today's deposit includes memberships of \$250 and \$300, likely the result of including gift categories of 100-249, 249-500 and 500 and above on the membership form. Offering those higher gift levels stimulates some people to consider joining at those levels. Current used book sale net of \$8,722.78 already exceeds last year's final total of \$6,313.46, with online sales for September, October and November yet to be received. Online sales began in July of last year. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Sue P, seconded by Barb L. and approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Susan M.

We are thrilled to have Margaret F. as our new treasurer for the Board of Trustees. Thanks for coming to see what Friends is all about. We are still working on October stats but they look strong as usual. We are still in the process of looking for a Youth Services Director and a clerk. Due to the staffing situation, the library will be closing at 5:00PM on Thursdays starting in December. This is temporary until staffing is back to normal. Susan M. will have more information in December concerning the legacy gift and the Empire State Park passes. The Empire State Passes must be paid in December to qualify for the discount. The furniture purchase that we discussed a few months ago is on pause. Susan M. hopes to see the vendor at the NYLA meeting. She is still working with the vendor for the pods to reduce the delivery fee. There will be no holiday concert but there will be several casual events during break week.

Susan M. is still finalizing plans for the holiday brunch with Finally Ours. They are not accepting reservations for December yet.

Pam. M. will e-mail us a copy of the reports that she sends to the Board of Trustee Meeting each month.

Mary Beth Roach has placed flags on the Friends' Corner for patrons to take in honor of Veterans Day. They look great. Kathy DeSanctis will put the flags out by the flag pole again this year.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Kathy D. (via e-mail)

Donations as of Oct. 27, 2023 \$5040. 86 members have donated an average of \$57.27.

Committee is meeting Nov.8 1-3pm for prep of second reminder mailing. We need more mailing addresses to meet the minimum 300 for bulk mailing. Can people send me addresses before Nov. 7? Neighbors and holiday card lists are appreciated! Please get her additional names by November 7.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: Mary T. and Deb C.

We are in good shape. We have had three trees returned already. Sheila G., Pam M. and Lore D. will help set up trees on November 17. Barb L., Pam M and Cara K. will sell tickets on December 2 and Sheila G., Lore D. and John T. will sell tickets on December 9. Please take posters to businesses in the area. They are in the file cabinet in Chantel's office.

REPORT ON THE NYLA FLS PROGRAM: Pam M.

The presenter was John C. Hart Library in Westchester County. They have a larger Board than we do. They have three standing committees - Membership, Business and Fundraising. Right now, they are focused on cultivating more small business members. They have a Giving Tree which highlights their business members. They are exploring ways to partner with the Chamber of Commerce to reach businesses. They have purchased a mailing list from Data Axle to gain new members. They use Bloomerang to keep their data base. Both are expensive but they felt it was well worth it. They are considering private events for Friends only.

They have an ongoing book sale from a cart in the lobby which produces \$400.00 - \$600.00 a month. They also have storage space at the library. They have a bake sale at the book sale.

The person with OCPL that was coordinating Friends groups is no longer with the library so that ball has dropped for now.

VOLUNTEER LIST: Pam M.

Thanks to Mary Beth R. for pulling names from our membership applications to make a spreadsheet of volunteers. We need to find ways to utilize those who have volunteered.

Lore D. asked if we have a central place where we store all our documents. We do not. She would be willing to work on that with a few others in the new year.

Sheila G. mentioned that there was a very nice write up with pictures of our own John T. in the Francis House newsletter. Congratulations to John!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. Our next meeting will be December 6 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary