

Friends of Onondaga Free Library
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 5, 2022

PRESENT:

Directors: Barbara Leigh, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, Mary Taylor, John Thornton and Donna Zeolla
Absent: George Bain
Staff: Susan Morgan
Members: Anne Andrianos, Sheila Gaudons and Laura Maynard

Due to COVID-19 the meeting was conducted via ZOOM.

The meeting began at 7:00. The minutes for December were read online. Donna Z. made a motion to accept them, seconded by Barb L. and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Beth R. and George B. via email

Here are the year-end reports for 2021. We finished the year with a checking account balance of \$14,670.85.

The category summaries include

Bookbags \$121.50
Cookbooks \$302.50
Festival of Trees \$1,370.11
Memberships \$8,941.14
Used book sale \$3,043.85
Gifts to OFL \$8,543.64

Please remember that these are net totals of income minus expenses, so memberships will differ from the committee report

Comparisons to 2020 are

Bookbags 0
Cookbooks 0
Festival of Trees \$935.93 (\$1,139.17 in 2019)
Memberships \$8,142.55 (\$9,573.36 in 2019)
Used book sale 0 (\$6,106.31 for two sales in 2019)
Gifts to OFL \$14,727.38 (\$6,615.59 in 2019)

Pam M. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Sue P. and approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Susan M.

- Susan M. thanked us for the legacy gifts and the make and take kits for Candyland.
- The December stats look pretty strong. Right now we will determine if we can stay open on a day to day basis. We did have to pause Storytime but all other programming will take place since most of it is hybrid.
- The request made by Maggie Gall-Maynard for the hanging rack for grab and go activity kits was revisited. The cost is \$757.00 and the library will install it. A motion to pay \$757.00 for the rack was made by Pam M. second by Donna Z. and approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Kathy D. via e-mail

Happy New Year everyone!

- 2022 membership campaign has raised \$7,630 to date.
- We have 137 current members.
- Average donation is \$55.59.
- We need to get the Honor Roll for 2022 posted in the library. Can you take care of that again this year, Mary Beth?
- We will need to meet as a committee to plan the Members Only Wine and Cheese Preview Party for the first night of our spring book sale once we know the date.
- Maggie G-M. mentioned that Dr. Seuss and JK Rowlings are controversial authors due to bias. She thought that we may want to rename our giving levels. She suggested two authors with local ties, Bruce Coville and Frank Baum. We can easily change the wording in most of our material but the brochures have been printed and it would be very expensive to discard them. We will revisit this issue when we are ready to print new brochures.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: Mary T.

We had a very successful Festival. Thanks to all who helped bag, display and call the winners. Mary T. has purchased the trees for next year (\$179.82), new tablecloths (\$38.36) and bags (\$12.96). A motion to reimburse Mary T. for Festival of Trees purchases for a total of \$231.14 was made by Barb L., seconded by Pam M. and approved.

WISHING WELL UPDATE: Donna Z.

Donna Z. passed the last few wishes to the staff. Susan M. will review them and come back to us in February with what we can do. Donna Z. will place something in the Friends' Corner to thank patrons for their suggestions and update them on what is being done to make those wishes a reality. We will also put it in the newsletter.

MAKE AND TAKE ACTIVITY KITS: Mary Beth R.

The cost was \$388.00. We will need several people to make the kits in early February. Sheila G., Barb L, Pam M, Sue P. and John T. volunteered.

GEOLOGY DAY: Anne A. and Mary Beth R. via email

- The children portion of the day is set. We will make a decision on the adult part in February.
- Mary Beth Roach agreed to act as "on site" coordinator for Geology Day 2022.
- Dr David Millis (Rock Doc) is in communication with Mary Beth and Anne Andrianos regarding an April 23rd geology event. The morning presentation will be for children and the afternoon presentation for adults.
- "Rock identification and where to find rocks in CNY" will be the morning presentation. Dave will bring rocks for participants and some will be for available sale, as in the past.
- Dave said that he didn't think there was enough "meat" in the article about fossil discovery in the Pompey, NY area. He requested more local information in order learn more about the find. It was suggested, that since there was so much Friend enthusiasm about the fossil find, that he make a short presentation about that and then present on other interesting topics of his choosing. Some of his ideas are as and are related to rocks:
 - Quartz watches
 - Long range communications
 - Computers
 - Expiration dates on medications
- Other topics:
 - Mass extinction events
 - Dinosaurs and climates
 - Evolution and 28 kingdoms instead of 2
 - We are still in discussion.
- To do list:
 - Reserve Community Room for April 23, 2022

- Identify topics for the afternoon presentation
- Determine specifics such as number of participants permitted in Community room in April,
- Decide about recommended age/grade of school age participants
- Determine if a staff member can be present for event
- Sign up volunteers for the event
- Sell rocks or ask for an offering
- Develop publicity with Chantal
- Lunch and honorarium for speaker

COOKBOOK, TOTE, BOOK GIVEAWAY: Mary Beth R.

This was a big waste of time! We sold less than ten of each and although people took some books, we did not get rid of as many as we had hoped.

WINTER BLUES BASKET: Mary Beth R.

A motion was made by Barb L. to spend not more than \$75.00 for basket items, seconded by Sue P. and approved. Donna Z. and Sue P. will shop for basket items. This will be a Friends' only giveaway and the drawing will be February 19.

FACEBOOK/SOCIAL MEDIA: Laura M.

Laura M. gave us a brief view of Instagram. We would need to decide how frequently we want to post, what content do we want to post and need to be different from the Library's Instagram post. Perhaps we could post twice a week featuring projects we are sponsoring, contributions we've made or upcoming events. We need to come up with a name - Friends of Onondaga Free Lib would be fine. She is happy to take the lead on this for us. Go for it Laura!

Mary Beth R. is wondering if someone is better versed in Facebook to update or image. Pam M. said we need to set goals, know how many followers we have and the demographics. If we are looking to attract a younger group of people Facebook is not the way to go. Mary Beth R. said that if we use a different platform she would need to back out. Laura M. said she would be interested in helping with Instagram.

We will address the Shamrock sale in February.

Mary Beth R. approached Brookdale in Taunton about donating books on a monthly basis. Mary T. and Sue P. thought we should wait until after the book sale to donate.

A second little free library was discussed. Susan M. mentioned that laundromats have become a new place for free books. Mary Beth R. will contact Tim O'Connell from Colonial Laundromats to see if we can put a shelf in his Nedrow location.

Susan M. mentioned that she would like to have a staff person designated to help us with each event to assist coordination with the library.

Susan M. would like to have the spring book sale on June 9-11 with donations from June 3-8. Thursday night could be a party for Friends only with refreshments. We will need a person on each shift to determine if the books are acceptable for sale - no magazines, encyclopedias, text books or smelly books. Sue P. will contact the town for tables and removal of unsold books. She will also connect with Nate DeVita, the used book seller.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM. Our next meeting will be February 2 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary