

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

Date: January 3, 2024

Present:

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

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Kathy DeSanctis, Dave Manfredi and Martha Mulroy

Absent: George Bain, Mary Beth Roach, and Donna Zeolla

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM. We welcomed Dave M. and Martha M. to our meeting and did brief introductions. The minutes for December 2023 were read on-line. A motion to accept them was made by Barb L., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pam M. and George B. via e-mail

Attached are today's financial statements. You received the 2023 year-end statements over the weekend. Current checking account balance is \$9,412.33, after four gifts were made to the library for a total of \$8,360. A year ago, the balance was \$15,226.07. Our first gifts last year to the library were on Jan. 10 for \$5,350 (\$1,500 for lucky day books, \$2,000 for e-books, \$1,000 for teen art classes, \$850 for three Aunt Flow dispensers).

Susan M. said that George B. dropped off the checks for the legacy gifts.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Barb L., seconded by Sheila G. and approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Susan M.

We had over 5,000 more checkouts in 2023 than in 2024. We are still on-boarding the new staff.

The Empire State passes are fully renewed and we are waiting for the two new passes.

The spring break for schools is very late this year so we are looking at early June and late September as book sale dates.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: Mary T.

This was the most successful Festival ever. We made over \$1700.00. The two Saturdays when Friends sat in the lobby to sell tickets were a great boon to sales. The display was beautiful this year with the placement of the trees. A huge thank you goes out to the staff for all they do to make this a success. We are looking at prices of trees to prepare for next year.

WINTER BASKET RAFFLE: Pam M.

Donna Z. and Sue P. will shop. A few additional suggestions to be included in the basket were lottery tickets and gift cards. The finished basket will be placed in the glass case in the lobby. The drawing will take place on Valentine's Day. This is a member's only raffle. An e-mail will be sent to members asking that they reply only if they are not interested in participating. A suggestion was made that we put together another basket for the general public at the book sale. This may generate a list that we can use for our membership mailing.

VOLUNTEER LIST: General Discussion

Dave M. and Martha M. are eager to help us grow our volunteers. Dave M. mentioned reaching out to parents to let them know what Friends does to help the library. We have active story hours and teen groups that meet in the library. We need to reach out to them. Perhaps we could contact some writers' groups. We also need to be sure that we stay in touch with those who have signed up as volunteers through our membership brochure.

FLYER LIST: Pam M.

The last update was done in 2019. We need to think about where we go to place flyers and the effectiveness of placing flyers. Most of the people polled at the book sale said they found out about it on-line.

FOCL / Member Benefit: Pam M.

Pam has not heard back from FOCL about securing two tickets to the Rosamond Gifford lecture series. She will check back with them.

Friends' Corner: Mary Beth R. (via e-mail)

Fifty bookmark kits were put out yesterday for the month of January. I plan on changing out the display at the end of January. For February, I was planning on doing something with the books we love. I got some favorites from some of you. If staff and the others want to send me some titles, that'd be great. Would like to get some children's and teen titles too. I'll also be doing a poster for Black History Month for February for the Corner too. If there's anything that you'd like to include, please let me know. I'm going to ask Chantal to print out the 2024 Friends list, and I'll have that changed out sometime in the next week or so. An after- thought, if anyone has some books, they want to get rid of let now, please let me know. I stocked up the laundromat library yesterday, but there's still some empty space, so I'd like to fill it up, if possible. I can pick up the books from you. btw – Sue, if anyone is shopping for the FOFL at Walmart, I have the tax-exempt card. I'll get it back in the folder in Chantal's office this week.

Membership Drive: Kathy D.

As of Jan. 2, 2024, we have 143 members with a total donation of \$8506 and an average donation of \$59.48. Membership is up over last year. We still have about the same number of members but they are giving more. We need to come up with a way to reach new people.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10. Our next meeting is February 7, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Parry, Secretary