

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

Date September 6, 2023

Present:

Directors: Sheila Graudons, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, Mary Taylor, and John Thornton

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Lore DePalo and Kathy DeSanctis

Absent: George Bain, Barbara Leigh and Donna Zeolla

An online motion was made on August 17 to use \$222.00 left over from the summer reading programs for a staff luncheon by Sheila G., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

Kathy D. will happily chair our 2024 Membership Campaign. The committee will meet in September to get the first mailing out. We welcomed Lore` D. to our meeting with introductions all around. The minutes for August were read online. A motion to accept them was made by Sheila G., seconded by Mary Beth R. and approved.

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

Here are the financials through last week. Current checking account balance is \$4,906.74, which compares to a balance of \$5,367.93 a year ago.

We have paid for renewal of our commercial liability insurance, \$435, the same premium as in 2022.

You will notice a big drop in total membership gifts for the year, as we have paid for printing 2,500 new membership brochures, \$650 to Upstate Printing. This is a recurring expense every few years. The last one was in October 2020, \$425 to Avalon Document Services for 2,500 brochures. It costs money to make money, in the commercial world as well as the nonprofit world.

George

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Sue P., seconded by John T. and approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Susan M.

We have hired Nicole Wright from Brewerton Library as our new Teen and Youth Services Director. She wanted to be closer to home and more involved in the community in which she lives. We had over 7,000 visitors in August with over 24,000 items checked out of the library. The staff appreciation luncheon was a huge hit. Thanks to Friends for sponsoring it. We hosted the Westhill bus driver's seminar here. Many of them had never been in our library and we hope they return.

Scott Lipkowitz would like to charter a bus to a factory. One of his ideas was Marquart in Cazenovia. Kathy D. has interacted with them and say they are a very welcoming company. Scott L. will do more research on this idea.

The summer community helper visits were awesome. We did pay a stipend to Onondaga Hill Fire Department, Dependable Waste and WAVES Ambulance Services. The Onondaga County Sheriff's Department would like children's books.

Book Sale: Sue P.

Sign-up sheets are up. Free books will be on Sunday October 1 from 11AM-1PM. The town will pick up unsold books on Monday morning.

Kathy D. will not be here to host the Preview Party. Sheila G. and Pam M. will fill in for her. Our advertising has taken out the phrase "Become a Friend for \$10.00" and has been replaced with "Become a Friend at the door" leaving the amount to be determined by the donor.

Scott L. recommends that we use a better I-Pad for our Zettle sales. He did offer us the use of his wife's I-Pad for the sale. Susan M. will check with him. If we purchase a new one, we would like it to be used for more than the book sale.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Kathy D.

The membership committee will meet here on September 15 at 9:30. The letters are done; brochures are here and the envelopes are organized. The second mailing will go out in November.

Kathy D. would like to see designated person at the book sale, Festival of Trees and Shamrock Sale to talk about becoming a Friend.

Mary Beth R. would like to place small flags on the Friends Corner for patrons to take. Kathy D. said we may need to replace some of the flags we use outside. They will take inventory and place an order.

There is an issue at Colonial Laundromat with our area being used for purposes other than a little free library. It is extremely popular and we are constantly restocking books. Our signage is gone, maybe if we made it look more like a library it would be used as such. Perhaps we could devote the bottom shelf to free shoes and clothes.

We have not heard about the drive thru Halloween candy give away at OCC but have decided not to participate if they do host it. It was very poorly attended last year.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: Mary T.

Mary T. will send a \$5.00 coupon to be used at the book sale to each donor of a tree for 2022. She is currently reaching out to decorators for 2023. We will set up on Friday, November 17 from 10AM-noon and pull winners on Friday, December 15. We will have 2 ticket pullers and 3 people will call the winners, attach the winning ticket to the tree and then everyone will clean up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. Our next meeting will be October 4 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary

