

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

Date: December 6, 2023

Present:

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

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Kathy DeSanctis

Absent: George Bain, Donna Zeolla

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM. The minutes for November were read on-line. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Barb L., seconded by John T. and approved.

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

Here are the financial statements after today's deposit.

Current checking account balance is \$16,091.69. This compares to \$14,903.96 as of Dec. 5, 2022. The significant change in income is the used book sale, \$7,972.02 net this year, compared to \$5,817.27 last year. Current net for the Festival of Trees of \$936.06 compares to \$640.61 as of Dec. 5, 2022. Year to date gifts to the library of \$15,472.20 compare to \$14,784.59 as of Dec. 5, 2022. Memberships received since Nov. 1 and the reminder mailing are 25, compared to 37 in the same period last year, which may or may not signify anything. I'm glad to answer any questions.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Susan M.

Thank you, Friends, for contributing to the marvelous holiday brunch. A good time was had by all. Victoria Deal has been hired as our new Youth Services Librarian. Laura had a baby girl, Samara. Both are doing well. Gail Thomas is helping out with processing on a limited basis. November stats look good. We have several fun things planned for the holiday break. I had a wonderful time at the NYLA convention. It was the first time I attended in person since COVID. There were good sessions on Workplace and Occupational Stress and another Refresh on Fund Raising. Scott Lipkowitz and I are going to the Onondaga County Legislative breakfast on Friday at Westhill to hobnob with the county legislatures and to let them know how important libraries are to their communities.

FUNDING REQUESTS: Susan M.

This year we can fund the purchase of Empire Passes, after January 1, 2024 as the State has extended the deadline for the early bird discount. This year it will be \$700.00 for ten passes. People are very respectful of the passes and most are usually returned on time. This is a very popular item during throughout the year. It was asked if the library could use more passes. We decided to buy two additional passes at \$80.00 each for a total of \$860.00. A motion to spend \$860.00 for twelve Empire State Passes was made by Sheila G., seconded by Mary Beth B. and approved.

LUCKY DAY BOOKS: A motion to spend \$1500.00 on Lucky Day Books was made by Mary Beth R., seconded by Barb L. and approved.

E-BOOKS AND AUDIO BOOKS: Susan M. is requesting \$3000.00, which is up from last year's \$2000.00. The library has a long queue for these books all the time. Onondaga Free card holders have first dibs on these books for the first eight weeks before the titles go out to other libraries. New books are ordered ever four to six weeks. A motion for approve \$3000.00 for E-books and Audio books was made by Barb L., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: A motion to spend \$3000.00 for the summer 2024 reading program was made by Sheila G., seconded by John T. and approved. Perhaps an ice cream social could kick off the summer reading program. Susan will look at the Library of Things to see what needs updated and possibly order more items. The memory kits have been very popular.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Kathy D.

The grand total of members for 2024 so far are 120 members for a total of \$7185 and an average of \$59.88. We are behind last year but there is a whole stack of envelopes waiting to be opened. We have over \$7000.00 so far. We have fewer people giving more. The second mailing really helps. We need to find a way to reach more people. Perhaps concentrating on a few different neighborhoods would help.

VOLUNTEER LIST AND ENGAGEMENT:

Susan M. will check to see if, when issuing a new library card, the patrons can be asked if their information can be shared with Friends. Perhaps we could have a Friends Day to explain to patrons what we do. We need to be sure we contact all of those who have volunteered. Sue P. will call the book sale volunteers and Mary T. and Deb Carey will speak with the Festival of Trees volunteers. We could send letters to those in the real estate transactions in our area.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: Mary T.

Take down will be Friday, December 15. Deb C. and Mary T. will do the drawing of the winners. They will be sure that no one wins more than one tree. Sheila G. and Kathy D. volunteered to make the initial phone calls. Deb C. and Mary T. will make follow up calls if the trees aren't picked up in a reasonable amount of time.

BOOKMARK KITS: Mary Beth R.

About fifty kits a month are taken. \$90.00 should get us through the year for 600 kits. A motion to spend \$90.00 for bookmark kits was made by Barb L., seconded by Mary Beth R. and approved.

FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER: Mary Beth R.

Please get any news into Mary Beth R. as soon as possible. Pam M. will check with FOCL to see if we can get free tickets to one of the lecture series. We would prefer Elin Hilderbrand or Maria Hinojosa. Perhaps Chantal Rothermel could send copies of the Friends' newsletter to other patrons of the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. Our next meeting will be January 3, 2024 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary