

Friends of Onondaga Free Library
Minutes of the Board of Directors

Date: January 8, 2025

Present:

Directors: Lore DePalo (Phone), Sheila Graudons, Barbara Leigh, Pamela McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Taylor and Donna Zeolla

Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Mary Beth Roach

Absent: George Bain, Cara Kirkby

The meeting was opened at 1:30 PM. There was no meeting in December 2024 due to lack of quorum. The minutes from November 2024 were read online. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Barb L., seconded by Pam M. and approved.

Funding Ask on December 3, 2025

Hello Friends,

I'm writing to request an email vote for the NYS Park Pass renewals. Would like to get these done as soon as possible before they expire on 12/31.

We have 12 passes to renew at an early bird rate of \$72 each

Total funding request is \$864.

Thank you,

Susan

This request was approved on December 5 by an online with eight approvals and one abstention.

Director's Report: Susan M.

We need on more person to volunteer for the cooking class on Thursday, February 13. Sheila G. volunteered.

We were thanked for co-hosting the brunch in December. Those who attended had a marvelous time.

Although we are still compiling the stats for 2024, it looks to be another great year.

Funding: Totaling \$15,275.00

A motion was made to spend \$6,000.00 for e-books by Barb., L, seconded by Pam M. and approved.

A motion was made to fund the summer reading program for \$2,200.00 by Barb L., seconded by Pam M. and approved.

A motion was made to spend \$2,000.00 for Lucky Day Books and extra book club editions by Barb L., seconded by Pam M. and approved.

A motion was made to sponsor two sessions of dance classes for \$1,200.00 by Barb L., seconded by Pam M. and approved.

A motion was made to spend \$625.00 on nature literacy toys and materials for children's programming by Barb. L., seconded by Pam M. and approved.

We will also spend \$250.00 for the adult art class in February. This expenditure was approved in November.

Thoughts for the future:

Carpool trip to Beaver Lake Nature Center to tie in with nature literacy. Friends would pay the admission fee.

Mrs. Universe USA is a neighbor from Marcellus. She would be willing to do a presentation at the library.

A question was asked about the box in the Community Room soliciting donations for the library. Susan M. said that it was there to accept donations from those using the room who might otherwise not be using the library. It hopefully will encourage users to express appreciation for the facility.

Treasurer's Reports: George B. via e-mail

November 2024

Here is the November financial report. For the first time, the Friends checking account balance has passed \$19,000 and then \$20,000. Current balance of \$20,455.58 compares to \$16,073.69 as of Nov. 29 last year.

2024 YTD comparisons to all of 2023 are

Memberships \$9,732.43 v. \$8,769.05

Used book sales \$7,805.97 v. \$7,972.02

Online used book sales \$797.68 v. \$785.35

Gifts to OFL \$15,585.52 v. \$15,685.99

We spent \$324 to purchase 20 trees for the Festival of Trees. Still to come for gifts to the library will be cost of the holiday brunch.

I note I'm reimbursing some expenses that have included payment of sales tax. We are tax-exempt in NYS. Please use our tax-exempt ID number when making purchases. If you need a PDF copy of the original form, please let me know.

thanks

George

December 2024

2024 was the first year the Friends account balance passed \$19,000 and \$20,000, ending the year at \$20,994.51. We finished 2023 at \$17,754.33.

The key number is the last one on the checking account PDF. Remember when you read the category summary that it shows our income for 2023 was \$21,91.16 and outflows were \$17,951.48, leaving a net total of \$3,240.18. That figure is not our year-end balance.

The Festival of Trees set a record with a net of \$2,341.83.

Here are comparisons of 2024 categories to 2023

Festival of Trees \$2,341.83 \$1,708.06

Memberships \$9,900.90 \$8,769.05

Online Used Book Sale \$814.89 \$784.71

Used book sale \$7,805.97 \$7,972.02

Gifts to OFL \$16,920.85 \$15,685.99

One notable difference between 2023 and 2024 is that we did not print any membership brochures last year. We spent \$650 printing 2500 new brochures in 2023.

With such an abundance of cash, I'd urge the library to consider asking Friends to underwrite at least one new program for library patrons. As money sits in the checking account, not earning interest, it's not benefitting the library.

George

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports was made by Sue P., seconded by Donna Z. and approved.

Information Technology: Lore D.

Lore D. will work with Chantal Rothermel to update the technology issues that were approved in November.

Pam M. stated that the new language By-Laws have been posted to Google.

We will need a transition period to have everyone using Google Drive for all Friends documents and information. We will make sure that everyone has access to the documents they need. Voting directors should have access to all documents while non-voting directors should have access only to the docs they need for their particular role.

We need another refresher. Three months after the refresher is a reasonable expectation for everyone to be using Google Drive.

Since all directors will need access to the g-mail account we need to work on the fact that it is a shared password which is not acceptable.

George B. needs to post monthly reports. He uses quicken and is the only one using Quicken. We need a backup.

Festival of Trees: Mary T.

Happy New Year to all,

This is the message that I received from George. This is a great result, especially given that the trees were more expensive. Special thanks to Chantel and the staff who sold over 2000 tickets!

I made the last Trees deposit today. The net is \$2,341.83, compared to \$1,708.06 last year, \$1,241.61 in '22, \$1,370.11 in '21, and \$1,139.17 in 2019. Clearly our best year yet for this event.

Great work and many thanks for all the help. Chantel, Deb and I made lots of notes for next year.

Mary & Deb

This was the best year ever. Many thanks to Chantal R. who took photos and managed social media and the front desk staff who sold raffle tickets.

Membership Drive:

Kathy DeSanctis set of goal of \$9,000.00 and we exceeded that by almost \$1,000.00.

This is very exciting and shows that people are engaged and appreciate what Friends does for the library.

Bookmark Kits: Mary Beth R.

The kits fly out the door. Mary Beth R. is requesting \$105.00 to replace the kits. A motion was made to spend not more than \$105.00 for bookmark kits by Donna Z. seconded by Barb L. and approved.

Shamrock Sale: Mary Beth R.

Although we do not make a lot of money from the sale it is something that patrons enjoy. We will hold the sale on March 7 and 8. Raffles help bring in money, too. A motion was made to spend not more than \$450.00 for plants from Price Chopper by Donna Z., seconded by Mary T. and approved.

Book Sale Signs: Sue P.

We have bids from 3 companies. Budget signs is the least expensive at \$15.00 per sign. Mary Beth R. will do the art work. A motion was made to spend not more than \$200.00 for 12 signs by Pam M., seconded by Barb L. and approved.

Book Sale Dates: Susan M.

Spring: Donations May 30 and 31, June 2 and 3 Sale June 4-7

Fall: Donations September 26-30, Sale October 1-4

Volunteer Participation:

Invite volunteers to a spring garden party

Come and bring a friend event.

Reach out to book clubs, craft group, puzzle swaps, dance classes and senior center.

Susan M. would like to move the senior art reception to mid to late June. She will reach out to the art class.

Our next meeting will be February 5 at 1:30. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary