

Friends of Onondaga Free Library
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
December 4, 2019

PRESENT:

Directors: George Bain, Deb Carey, Barbara Leigh, Pam McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, CJ Sturdevant, John Thornton and Donna Zeolla
Absent: Mary Buckout

Library Staff: Susan Morgan

Members: Anne Andrianos, Kathy DeSanctis and Mary Taylor

The meeting opened at 7:00PM with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The November minutes were read online and Deb C. moved to approve them, seconded by Donna Z. and approved. Anne A. mentioned that December 13 is Library Advocacy Day at Beauchamp Library from 8:30 until 10AM. This is an opportunity to meet with our local and state representatives to discuss issues concerning funding for libraries and to let them know how important libraries are to the community. Anne A. also mentioned that we should nominate Alyssa Newton for the state library award for all she has done to promote a teen space for the library and her work with the teens. John T. mentioned that Chantal Rothermel has suffered two family crisis in the past year. As individuals we will donate a gift certificate to Folkus Project to her.

TREASURER'S REPORT: George B.

Here are the current financial statements for the Friends. Current balance is \$16,344.52. The library returned the check for the interactive panels, as Susan says she will find a new vendor and a new price. That \$1,525 inflates our current balance. John T. moved to accept the report, seconded by Susan P. and approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Susan M.

- The Board of Trustees will meet on December 18 to finalize the 2020 budget. Hopefully they will have a new member who lives in the area but is an educator in the East Syracuse-Minoa School District.
- The majority of the work has been done in the parking lot. They cannot put the sod down until spring and will be moving their equipment soon.
- The new door should arrive this week. That project is covered by insurance.
- The concert with Merry Mischief will be Saturday, December 14 at 2PM.
- The Giving Tree in the lobby had 50 name tags for children through the McMahan-Ryan Child Advocacy Center. All tags were taken! Next year we may ask for 100 tags.
- The Teen Area will have a soft opening during winter break and the official opening will be at the March Board of Trustees meeting. Alyssa and Susan will give us ideas for signage in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Festival of Trees: Deb C. There have been a few issues with batteries and electrical outlets. We hope to resolve this. Sales have been brisk. Hello all and Happy Holidays! The Festival of the Trees is in full swing. Twenty trees have been donated and are on display. The library staff is selling raffle tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5. We will order replacement trees in January. There has been a suggestion to also offer wreaths to decorate, so we will investigate and may order 4 or 5 for the 2020 Festival. The raffle will be held in conjunction with the Merry Mischief Concert on December 14 at 2:00pm. We will prepare a detailed "how-to" list for anyone to follow in future years. Thank you. Mary T.
- Book Bag Sales: Deb C. We are not sure how the sales are going. We will be selling them at the Senior Art Fair.
- Membership Campaign: Kathy D. As of 11/24/19 we have 111 donors donating \$5278.08. An average donation of \$47.55. We received about 1/3 of the appeal letters. Everything is set for the reminder letters to go out in early 2020. It was suggested that we use larger return envelopes because all the folding makes it difficult to unravel and read the returns. We've sent 50 to 60 welcome post cards and will give the names to Kathy D. for inclusion in next year's drive. The Honor Roll will go back up in April.
- Senior Art Show: Donna Z. We are in good shape. The art is already hung.
- Holiday chocolate for the staff: Deb C. moved to amend the motion in November for holiday chocolate from \$100.00 to no more than \$150.00, seconded by John T. and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Walmart and Wegman's tax exempt cards: Mary Beth R. Both stories require cards for tax exempt purchases. Deb C. has gotten a Walmart card and Mary Beth R. will get a Wegman's card. Both will be in the filing cabinet after they have been laminated. Mary T. will clean out the filing cabinet in February.
- Articles of Association: Pam M. The Articles of Association really need to be reviewed and cleaned up. We will come back to this in January.
- Wish List: Donna Z. The library still needs to review the list although they will order most of the books requested.
- 2020 Budget: Mary Beth R. Will be tabled until January.
- George B. moved that we spend \$665.00 to replace one lost Empire State Pass and renew the other nine in 2019 to take advantage of the discounted price (\$15 off each pass), seconded by Donna Z. and approved.

IDEAS FOR 2020:

- Business memberships: Need a chairperson. Kathy D. volunteered but it would have to wait until she came back from Florida. Businesses need to know how membership will benefit them. We could feature a business member of the month at the Friends Corner. We could build a partnership but this would have to be done before October when most budgets are in place. We could have a business spotlight in the newsletter - almost like an ad.
- Raffle a book each month. Use some of our own money to raffle tickets to the Rosamond Gifford Lecture Series. Be sure to have the raffle tickets have an address required so we can send them a membership letter.
- Stone Canoe - local writer and artist publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary