

Friends of Onondaga Free Library
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 6, 2019

PRESENT:

Directors: Deb Carey, Barbara Leigh, Pam McLaughlin, Susan Parry, Mary Beth Roach, CJ Sturtevant and John Thornton
Absent: George Bain, Mary Buckhout and Donna Zeolla
Library Staff: Susan Morgan

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was opened at 7:00 by Mary Beth R. She thanked Mark and Kathy DeSanctis for placing the small flags around the flagpole. The minutes from October were read online. Pam M. moved to approve them, seconded by Deb C. and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Beth R. per e-mail from George B.

- Our current balance is \$16,574.33. We need new programs or a series of one-offs to deplete our account. The money does no one any good sitting in the checking account. Even a series of gifts to the library in January of \$10,000 will leave us 6K to use.

How about book raffles? Buy a series of Pulitzer or National Book or other awards books and give them away in a free raffle. Or a set of best-sellers every so often. Those interested fill out coupon that goes into a jar and a winner is drawn. A free prize. Or buy sets of two seats to the Gifford Lecture series and give those away in free drawing. Note that Friends board members should not enter or be eligible to win any free drawing prize to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: SUSAN M.

- Susan M. thanked us for all the work we've done this year and for promoting good will towards the library.
- The holiday brunch has been moved to December 8 at 9AM at Finally Ours.
- The library has received notice that it is the beneficiary of a \$5000.00 gift from the Estate of Nikki Patell. It is a generous gift from a wonderful woman.
- Fine waivers for children and teens was approved by the Board of Directors. We currently also waive fees for veterans up to \$10.00. Fine income has been flat for the last few years so the Board is looking into waiving all fees.
- The drainage project started today and should be complete by Thanksgiving. We are still waiting for the front door repair to be done. The electronic upgrade to the Community Room is coming soon. The holiday concert by Merry Mischief will be December 14 at 2PM. The winter program guide will be out soon.
- Susan M. requests funds for interactive, hands on panels to be placed on the circulation desk and the pillar near the desk so that young children will have something to do while the parent is checking out. The cost will be \$1497.00 plus shipping. There is a two year warranty on both.
- Maggie Gall-Maynard and Alyssa Newton are working with the school districts that we serve to collaborate on new ideas on partnerships among the schools and the library. OFL would like to host a breakfast or lunch meeting so that the school librarians and OFL staff can be together to brainstorm. The cost of this would not exceed \$200.00.
- Deb C. moved to the the Friends pay for two interactive panels at \$1497.00 plus shipping and funds for a meal for the meeting for school librarians not to exceed \$200.00, seconded by Pam L. and approved.
- The following gifts were approved in October to be received by OFL on January 2, 2020:\$4500.00 for the new teen space, \$1500.00 for Fast Flicks, \$2000.00 for Lucky Day Books, \$2000.00 for e-books, \$200.00 for the Adult Summer Reading Program and \$700.00 for ten NYS Park passes totaling \$10,900.00

OLD BUSINESS:

- Festival of Trees: Deb C. Most trees have been picked up
- Book Bag Sales: Deb C. Sales have been flat since the book sale. John T. moved that we reduce the price to \$9.00 for the public and \$7.00 for Friends from November 15 (when the trees go up) until the end of the year, seconded by Barbara L and approved.

- Wish List: Mary Beth R. Pam L. motioned to table working on the wish list until after the library has taken a look at it and decided what they can do, seconded by John T. and approved.
- Senior Art Show: Mary Beth R. Please sign up to help.
- Welcome Postcard: Mary Beth R. This will be a joint message with the library. We have already approved \$200.00 for postage for this project.
- Gifford Lecture Series: Deb C. Raffle will begin at the Shamrock Sale.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Articles of Association: Pam M. The term limit subcommittee recommends the following amendment be made to our Articles of Association:
 - Article IV-Officers and Elections 2-Terms of Office
 - b) President shall be elected by a majority of those Directors present at the Annual Meeting, for the term of two years, commencing upon election. The President Emeritus can serve on Board committees after their term as president expires. Former Presidents may be re-elected to executive board positions after a one year gap following their prior term of service.
 - c) Vice President/President Elect shall be elected by a majority of those Directors present at the Annual Meeting, for a term of two years, commencing upon election. The President Elect will transition to the office of President at the annual meeting at the end of the President's two year term with the majority vote of those Directors present.
 - Deb C. moved to accept this amendment, seconded by John T. and approved.
 - The committee also found other areas of the Articles of Association that need to be rewritten. They will work on that after the new year.
- Board of Trustees Meeting: Mary Beth R. Sign up sheet going around so that we have a representative at each Trustees meeting.
- Planning and Budget Subcommittees: Mary Beth R. We had a meeting prior to this and had several new ideas that we will pursue. We will meet again at 6PM on December 4 to follow up. We will try to come up with a yearly budget at that meeting.
- CJ S. mentioned that the Little Free Library at Green Hills needs to be replaced. It is too small and is showing signs of wear and tear. We will look into replacing it.
- Alyssa N. has been researching Homebound Libraries. The client would pre-registered with the library who will gather the materials requested. We would provide the delivery service. We would need to have two volunteers for one day a month. We could recruit volunteers from our broader base. Alyssa N. will get back to us with more details.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM. Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 4 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Parry, Secretary