



## Friends of Marcellus Free Library Meeting - 1 PM

Friends of the Library Community Room - January 15, 2025

President Jackie Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

### Welcome:

Jackie reminded everyone to sign in & record their volunteer hours.

### Attendance:

Present: Jackie Smith, President; Domenick Patti, Vice President; Michele Merwarth, Corresponding Secretary; Jim Shake, Treasurer; Audrey Kearney, Director; Karen Pollard, Director; Donna Merchant, Deputy Treasurer

Absent: Recording Secretary

Total Attendance: 15

### Reports:

Secretary: The November 2024 minutes were previously distributed to board members. Motion was made by Jackie to approve the minutes, seconded by Domenick, voted on and passed. Minutes will be sent to the library for posting on the FMFL page.

Treasurer: Jim presented the financial reports for November, December & current balances through Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> and gave budget estimates for actual and projected amounts for the current and last fiscal year. Each director received the statements. The reports will be filed as read.

Membership: Michele reported that current membership stands at 167 members, with 5 new members since our last report. Membership is down from last year's year end membership of 197.

Advocacy: Domenick reported on his efforts at the Middle & High School seeking student volunteers to assist the library starting in February through June. Many students need community service hours to graduate. Sara would schedule students for an hour shift and Bridget would look to form a Teen Advisory Board. It was mentioned that providing snacks for the students may entice them to volunteer and come back. Also mentioned was the need for several new Board positions for next year as many important roles will have met term limits.

Board of Trustees: Jackie reported that the December meeting was geared towards the Open House, staff reviews, and the 2025 library schedule. The Annual Meeting will be on January 30<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome to attend. She handed out the Trustees meeting schedule for 2025 to all Board members.

Book Nook: With Dottie Levy & Linda Garner out of town, Barb Crawford will be handling book donations, the Book Nook and lobby displays. Michele gave Dottie an updated list of Friends volunteers to give to Barb. Dottie & Linda will return at the end of March.

Sunshine: Audrey Kearney reported that no cards have been sent since our last meeting.

FaceBook: In the absence of Anne Hatcher, Michele reported that we probably have a couple more than 225 followers. Anne is doing great work posting interactive posts. Anne will post information regarding Library Lovers Month, Library Advocacy Day, Library Volunteer Day, and upcoming meetings.

Historian: Paulette Quinn was absent - no report.

### **Business:**

MFL Request for Funds: Jackie postponed the request of \$1,050 for 3 Barefoot Bob Astronomy Programs until February as there will be another request for funds forthcoming.

Storage Shelving: Jackie is researching floating shelves as a necessity for allowing more space to store Friends' items and Holiday decorations. Shelves would be installed by library maintenance. Same size stackable bins would be necessary to acquire or purchase. Michele has bins to donate if they meet required needs.

Library Lovers Month: Michele & Jackie are working on a Friends BINGO board to highlight the Friends and the library's offerings. BINGO Boards would be emailed to membership as well as being available in the library. Details are still being worked on. Michele will try to get a display in the library for "Guess the Number of Candy" for patrons to enter. Information should be given to Anne to post on FaceBook.

Library Advocacy Day & Library Volunteer Day: Domenick will research Library Advocacy Day (Feb. 5) and send to Anne for FaceBook posting. Library Volunteer Day will coincide with our next meeting (Feb. 19). This is the day we volunteer our services to complete library tasks assigned by staff. This should also be posted on FaceBook.

Basket Raffle Committee Meeting: Holly Gang, Debbie Grousset, Lisa Blystone, and Betsy Shake will meet next week with Jackie to start the process of online requests for donations from the bigger businesses. Jackie will go over the Basket Raffle process with them.

Adjournment: The meeting was paused at 1:30 pm for a soup and bread luncheon. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm following the author's presentation.

Speaker: Jo McNally, local romance author gave a wonderful presentation on how she writes her stories, where she gets her ideas, her latest book, the development of characters, the "murky middle," and the difference between romance and love stories.

Next Meeting: February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm - Library Volunteer Day

Submitted by Michele Merwarth, in the absence of Recording Secretary