



Friends of Marcellus Free Library Meeting - 1 PM

Friends of the Library Community Room - September 18, 2024

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

Welcome:

Jackie welcomed and reminded everyone to sign in & record their volunteer hours. With the absence of Recording Secretary, Susan Spencer agreed to take the minutes.

Attendance:

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

Absent: Domenick Patti, Vice President; Vacant, Recording Secretary

Total Attendance: 16

Program:

- Library Director Sophia Brandt updated the group on happenings in the library. A new engraver has been found for the memorial bricks and has received the next group of bricks. There is a problem with the size of the bricks and a professional paver will be hired to install them.
- A fundraiser is going to be on October 13th 5:30 pm, at the Tuscarora Golf Club. It will be Murder Mystery Dinner performed by The Dinner Detective with audience participation. All reservations will be due and paid for by October first. The cost will be \$65 per person.
- Summer reading program- Sophia thanked the Friends for our support and said it would not be possible without the group's support. In the children, tweens, and teens group there were 213 participants with 685 book reviews submitted. This represented a 21 percent increase in participants and reviews submitted. The adult group saw an increase in participants with a total of 91 which was a 21 percent increase. There was a decrease in book reviews submitted of 29 percent from the previous year, this may well be due to in-person submissions. There were 1,002 raffle eateries.
- This past year there have been 62 programs/ events offered with a total attendance of 1,514 patrons.
- Thanks to Friends the library has a digital subscription to the New York Times with 2 iPads (in-house use only) available with the app installed.
- Thanks to Friends the WonderBooks collection will be expanded. Wonder books have an electronic component that reads the books to the user.

- Awesome Art for children will be offered with their art work being displayed at the Holiday open house on December 6th. Plans for the open house include the Children's area having the theme of "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe ". This year's tree will be a rotating tree that will be decorated with ornaments made at the open house

Reports:

Secretary: The August 2024 minutes were previously distributed to the board members. Michele requested a correction regarding her presentation at the upcoming NYLA conference. A motion was made by Michele Merwarth and seconded by Jim Shake that the minutes be accepted as corrected. The minutes were passed as corrected. Minutes will be sent to the library for posting on the FMFL page by Jackie. July minutes are still outstanding, Jackie will follow up with Domenick.

Treasurer: Jim presented the final financial report for August & YTD September current balances, the reports will be filed as read. There was discussion about the projected income and expenses for the year, Jim will tweak the budget projections as discussed.

Membership: Michele Merwarth reported to date 98 memberships have been received. She has a display of a bear with a honey jar and bees down stairs in the foyer with bees for each member.

Advocacy: The report was tabled with the absence of the Vice President Dominick Patti.

Board of Trustees: Jackie previously distributed Sophia's Director's Report to Friends Board members. Jackie tabled her report as Sophia's presentation contained all pertinent information to be shared.

Book Nook: In Dottie's absence Barb Crawford will update with Book Sale update in business section of these minutes.

Sunshine: Audrey Kearney reported that two cards were sent out this past month to Gail Cerio & Domenick Patti.

Facebook: In the absence of Anne Hatcher, Michele Merwarth reported that there are now 183 followers. There are ongoing problems with Anne being able to post, she is working with Sophia for a resolution and Michele will continue to help until resolved.

Historian: Paulette Quinn has met her goal of getting the past year's history recorded.

The meeting paused for five minutes for people to get refreshments.

Business:

Banned Book Week is September 22-28th. Dominick Patti has prepared a display for the lobby advocating for the cause. Public resources can be found at ALA.org and bannedbookweek.org for information and links to petitions. The local book store, That's What She Read, on Main Street in Marcellus has t-shirts available with "I'm with the banned" and books on them. Jackie & Karen are both wearing them, and they

will offer a discount if you state you're with the Library Friends. Jackie shared some stats on books banned and the membership enjoyed an engaged discussion.

Financial Review: The report has been completed by member, Amy Sandgarten. We were cited for 2 checks being made out to cash and not containing the required 2 signatures for the amount equal or above \$250. Both these checks were for opening tills for the book sales. Both checks did contain a 2nd signature, but after the fact. Jackie & Jim will get together prior to the Fall Book Sale to come up with a better procedure for pulling out the cash for the book sales.

Fall Book Sale/Book Nook: Barb Crawford and Linda Garner co-chairs. Barb reported the last donations accepted will be on October 7th and the Book Nook will be closed then. Donations still sought include hard cover fiction and mass media paperbacks. On October 14th they will alphabetize the paperbacks, and on the 16th after the meeting will be the date to alphabetize the hard cover books. Signs are available for yards they must be signed out and cannot be displayed until the 21st of October and should be removed on the 26th and 27th. Michele will post something on social media about the sale. Better World Books are no longer accepting our books donations, the VA hospital, Loretto and the Samaritan Center are places that the unsold books could be donated. Camillus Senior Citizen is happy to get the large print books. Volunteer sign-up for the book sale was initiated.

Special Friends of the Library Award: Sophia will submit nominations and Audrey and Jackie will be the committee to make the selection.

National Friends of Library Week: October 20th - 26th - Friends will have a membership drive in the lobby during high traffic times. There will be an Impact Report and a Proclamation from the village. Swag will be given out for different membership levels, the items will be Friends logo pens, sticky notes, and bags. Volunteers are needed to man the sign-up table. Michele requested to have cider and donuts available to those who sign up. A motion was made by Audrey Kearney and seconded by Jackie Smith that funding up to \$100 be made available for the purchase of the refreshments. The motion was carried.

Hospitality- Holly Gang solicited volunteers for refreshments needed for each monthly meeting. A motion was made by Jackie Smith and seconded by Audrey Kearney, that a cake and beverage be purchased for the October 16th meeting in honor of Paulette Quinn the cost of which is not to exceed \$100. Motion passed.

Next meeting: October 16 @ 1pm, Friends Community Room - Celebrating Friends - Daniel W. Casey Award

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Susan Spencer/Jackie Smith