



Friends of Marcellus Free Library, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2025
Friends Community Room - 1 pm

President Steve Kankus called the meeting to order at 1:08.

Present: Steve Kankus, President; Michele Merwarth, Corresponding Secretary; Lisa Blystone, Treasurer; Donna Merchant, Deputy Treasurer; Domenick Patti, Director; Wayne & Susan Blann, Co-directors.

Absent: Jackie Smith, Past President

Also attending: Dottie Levy, Book Nook; Paulette Quinn, Historian; Betsy Shake, Basket RaUle Committee; Mary Dreiling, Gloria Weeks.

Welcome and Housekeeping: All were reminded to log volunteer hours. As the Recording Secretary position is vacant, Paulette agreed to take minutes.

Reports:

Secretary: The October minutes had not been distributed electronically to Board members so paper copies were made and handed out. With the correction noted to add the last name to one attendee, the motion to approve was made by [REDACTED]/seconded by [REDACTED]. Passed.

Fall Book Sale: In the absence of the Book Sale Chair, Dottie shared that leftover books from the sale have been distributed to local non-profits enabling her to reopen the Book Nook. The treasurer reported the total earned was \$2, 515.17.

Membership: Current membership 194. Fourteen people chose to join and 7 renewed their membership on the opening night of the Book Sale. Twenty-five new members and 10 renewals were received during National Friends of Library Week. In recognition of the 20th anniversary of NFOLW, a drawing was held with the prize being a \$20 coupon for the Book Nook. A Gift Membership display in the lobby is being planned for December.

NYLA Conference: Michele had the privilege of attending the New York State Library

Association conference in Saratoga Springs as the recipient of the Friends of Libraries Section Randall Enos Conference Scholarship. There were several programs offered by the Friends Section from which she gained some good information.

Treasurer: Lisa presented her report which will be filed as read. It was brought up that funds have been accruing that are awaiting funding requests. Steve will let Sophia know that additional requests are desired and mention ideas that were brought up for items that might be considered. Lisa will attend to the procedures required to submit the required governmental financial filings.

Library Board: Steve attended November the MFL Library Board meeting. The outdoor space plans are proceeding. Sophia reported increases in many areas of library use statistics, most notably Hoopla being up 66% compared to this time last year. Lisa and Domenick have volunteered to attend the December meeting.

MFL Funding Request: Amount requested \$1, 378 (Open House \$150, Decorations \$150, Stop the Bleed Kit \$778). Motion to approve was made by [REDACTED], seconded by [REDACTED]. Passed.

OGicer Recruitment Strategies: Steve has drafted a preliminary report on actions that may be taken to address the ongoing shortage of volunteers willing to fill vacant positions. Several people have already signed up to take part in a meeting to discuss those recommendations/any additional alternatives. The meeting date has been scheduled for December 3, 1 pm in the Martha Lollis Conference Room. Any others interested are welcome to attend. To prepare for the discussion those who need a copy of his report should email Steve. srkankus@gmail.com

Request to Assist with Open House: Sophia has requested 6 people to assist at the Library's Open House on December 5. Steve will solicit volunteers from members who had indicated willingness to assist with events.

Meeting adjourned at 2:14.

A social program for members (Friendsgiving Pie Palooza: Reverse Coloring and Sharing Pie with Friends) followed the business meeting. 9 members attended.

Submitted by Paulette Quinn

Upcoming Events

Program Event: December 1, 9:30am. Decorating the Library

OUIcer Recruitment Meeting: December 3, 1 pm

Friends Business Meeting: January 21, 1-2 pm