



Friends of Marcellus Free Library Meeting – 1:00 pm

Friends Community Room – September 28, 2023

President Jackie Smith called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

Attendance:

Jackie Smith, President; Domenick Patti, Vice President; Jim Shake, Treasurer; Diana Osborne, Recording Secretary; Karen Pollard, Director; Audrey Kearney, Director

Absent: Michele Merwarth, Corresponding Secretary; Debbie Grousset, Deputy Treasurer

Total membership present: 13

President Jackie Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to sign in and report any volunteer hours. An updated Volunteer tracking form was made available and Jackie encouraged the Friends to take one, the form also defines "qualified volunteer hours". Jackie introduced the 2023/2024 Board to the membership in attendance. Last year there were more than 688 recorded volunteer hours. Jackie recognized the top 6 volunteers: Dottie Levy, Betsy Shake, Linda Garner, Barb Crawford, Deb Fratter, and Season Seferyn. Jackie thanked them for their service and provided a token of appreciation.

Program:

Sophia Brant, Interim Library Director, gave the Friends an update on library happenings. The board had successful fundraisers at Riseform, and the amphitheater last year and raised over \$3,000; the Friends' help at these events was very appreciated. MFL plans to hold another fundraiser at Riseform in 2024, they also plan to have a gala in the fall of 2025. We had the Amidon dedication ceremony in July 2023. We had channel 9 news coverage for that as well. Summer reading would not be possible without all of your hard work, thank you for helping with that. We had 251 people register with over 1,000 raffle entries. We raffled away 31 prizes in total which you sponsored, thank you. Last year I spoke about the strategic plan, and it is just awaiting board approval. We have 6 main goals that Steve and I determined we need to focus on for 3-5 years. Sophia also listed all the upcoming programs for adults that Thomas has put together. Jenna is a new employee as a Page. After volunteering she decided it was something she wanted to do for a career. We are hoping to promote her to library trainee. The Holiday

Open House this year will be held on Friday, 12/01. Friends volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Reports:

Secretary: Diana Osborne gave the report for August 2023. Motion made, seconded, and carried. It will be posted on the Friends page of the library's website.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Shake presented the report for August and September through 9/16/23, including bank balances. The statement will be filed as read.

Board of Trustees: All items to report were included in Sophia Brandt's Program.

Membership: In the absence of Michele Merwarth, Jackie Smith presented the report. Michele reported 83 members prior to her being out of town in September. Michele updated and mailed the Friends application, brochures, the receipts, etc. We are also going to try to email out renewals and include a link to pay online through paypal for anyone who didn't renew. Also want to add it to the MFL website. This will be moved to a new business in a future meeting.

Advocacy: Domenick Patti gave the advocacy report. We are delivering newsletters every month; I have 18-20 volunteers who deliver them. If you have seen the newsletter I think it is the most informative piece of information we put out. Oct 1-7th is Banned Book Week, if you are not familiar, there is a rising number of people who want to ban books. On the friends table downstairs I put the library policy on books and got more info from the NYLA. What you will see is a list of 13 books that are most requested to be banned. Hopefully we can raise some awareness. I signed up for 2 programs from the Sustainable Library Initiative; focused on facilities adaptation and suggestions for improvements, libraries, and climate change. I will make a complete report.

Book Nook: Dottie Levy reported donations are coming in, we can always use more volunteers. We are a little light on hobbies, gardening and sports books. I have flyers here if anyone wants to put these out. I will have a signup sheet in the book-nook. We need volunteers to put signs in front lawns (35 total), put them out before the book sale and take them down the Sunday after the book sale.

Facebook: In the absence of Mary Ellen Popyk, Jackie Smith presented the report. We still have 167 followers like we had at the end of the last fiscal year. Send things to Michele or me, if you want them posted on social media, like for banned book week, etc.

Sunshine: Audrey Kearney sent a “get well” card to Barbara Patti and a “condolences” card to Mayor Curtin for the loss of his brother.

New Business:

Independent Financial Review: Jackie said that Lisa Blystone is going to do the FY 2022-23 financial review. There was difficulty in finding a Friend who would agree to the task therefore we are delayed. We are asking for a 30 day extension on completing the review. All in favor.

Request for Funds: Jackie shared a request for funds from the library; \$2500 for fall programs. They would like \$1,500 for rapid reads. This would help get popular adult reading titles. \$350 for stuff-a-stuffy workshop for the children's thanksgiving program, \$275 for new toys, \$375 for Barefoot Bob's December program. The motion was approved for \$2,500. For 2024 spending, there is a big request coming. They'd like armchairs to replace or re-upholster. There are 5 chairs behind the fiction section. They are stained, frayed, and in pretty bad condition. The sixth one is in the teen room. That is we will discuss at a future meeting prior to the fund request coming in. Sophia Brandt has obtained an estimate of \$5,400. Between now and next month, please come prepared with your questions for that.

Fall Book Sale: Linda Garner passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers to work the sale. She will be coordinating all scheduling.

Special Friend of the Library: Every year we ask the library to give us a nominee of a volunteer who has gone above and beyond (this nominee should typically not be a Friend). A committee of 1-2 is required, Audrey Kearney and Jackie Smith volunteered.

National Library Week is Oct 15-21: To celebrate we have Friends volunteers taking 2 hour shifts to sit in the lobby and greet the patrons to promote Friends membership. Jackie passed around a volunteer sheet that Michele put together, Michele will be handling the scheduling.

Hospitality: Vicki Finkle passed out a sign up sheet for snacks and beverages for the fiscal year.

Next month's meeting: Will be a writing workshop put on by Ann Ferro - Press-Observer Columnist. It will be a fun activity for our members but will run longer than a normal meeting. The board will try to address what they can prior to the meeting via email in an effort to limit the business that must be addressed.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

Submitted by Diana Osborne, Recording Secretary