



## Friends of Marcellus Free Library Meeting – 1 pm

Friends of the Library Community Room - September 28, 2022

President Jackie Smith called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

### **Attendance:**

Jackie Smith, President; Domenick Patti, Vice President; Debbie Grousset, Deputy Treasurer; Paulette Quinn, Corresponding Secretary; Michele Merwarth, Recording Secretary; Audrey Kearney, Director; Karen Pollard, Director.

Absent: Treasurer Jim Shake

Total membership present - 16

President Jackie Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to sign in and report any volunteer hours. She introduced herself and all the Board members.

### **Program:**

Interim Library Director, Sophia Brandt, gave the Friends an update on library happenings: Steve Kankus joining the library as a consultant to mentor and help develop a strategic plan for the library going forward, recent library programs funded by the Friends, reopening of the library café, update on the outdoor amphitheater and memorial garden project, and proposed Fall programming for children and teens.

Michele mentioned an upcoming NYLA FLS webinar on October 6th at 2 pm – “Strategic Planning Process for Public Libraries.” She will attend. If you are interested in attending, contact her.

### **Reports:**

**Secretary** - Michele Merwarth gave the report for August 2022. Motion made, seconded, and carried. It will be posted on the Friends page of the library’s website.

**Treasurer** - In the absence of Jim Shake, Domenick Patti presented the report for July and August 2022, and through 9/27/22 including bank statement balances. The statement will be filed as read.

**Membership** - Paulette Quinn reported that there are currently 100 members. This is a healthy number for September and about 30 members have donated \$50 or more. Three members wrote notes with their membership – 2 living outside the Marcellus area. She will send out membership forms to the Board of Trustees. Michele will post information on FaceBook.

**Book Nook/Book Sale** - Dottie Levy reported that the new procedure for accepting book donations (1 box or bag at a time to the circulation desk) is going well as volunteers can work on them a little at a time. Book Sale will be October 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> with bag sale October 24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. She passed around sign up sheets for

placement of 50 yard signs and working at the sale. Other dates to help are October 11th, 13th, 17th, 21st, and 24th. Men are needed on Friday morning 10/24 to move books upstairs.

Board of Trustees - Jackie Smith reported on the 9/8 meeting. Items discussed were the addition of Steve Kankus, formalizing committees, using people counter statistics, the outdoor project, and gratitude for the Friends financial support.

Sunshine - Audrey Kearney sent out 3 cards: sympathy cards to Karen Pollard and the family of Mark McQueenie and a get well card to Paulette Quinn. She will send a get well card to Linda & Steve Garner.

Facebook - Michele Merwarth reported that there are now 134 followers and urged people to join, like & share posts. She also posts on community pages as well.

Advocacy - Domenick Patti reported that the newsletter distribution went well in July and faltered after that. Paulette will send him email addresses to get more people to deliver. Deb Fratter will oversee distribution during October in his absence. He spoke about library funding proposals before Congress, online Information Literacy classes and an increase in challenges amidst Banned Books Week. Information is on NYLA and Jackie will look into giving membership information on how to become a library advocate through NYLA.

We had a 10 minute refreshment break for socialization and treats provided by Jackie and Domenick.

### **Business:**

Vicki Finkle, Hospitality Chair - passed around a sign up sheet for refreshments for the year. She also relayed that she calls new members to welcome them to the Friends.

2021-2022 Financial Review - extended until December 31, 2022. Jim is working on putting the information into Quicken. Jackie reported on how the library used the Friends donation of \$10,700 last year.

Special Friend of the Library Award- Deb Fratter and Audrey Kearney volunteered to help Jackie vet the selection of the awardee. \$50 award will be given during National Friends of the Library Week.

Chamber of Commerce – Karen Pollard reported that membership is \$110. After some discussion, it was decided not to join at this time.

Vacancies – Looking to fill Basket Raffle and Historian.

Library Request for Funds – Sophia requested \$1,020 for Fall programming for children and teens consisting of a Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Winter Wonderland Stuff-a-Stuffie, and food & drinks for teen programming. After discussion, motion was made to fund the request, seconded, and passed.

National Library Week – This item was unintentionally skipped over on the agenda. Board members will confer and prepare a display in the library during that week.

**Next meeting – October 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm – Community Room. Program will be Ann Ferro.**

Minutes submitted by Michele Merwarth, Recording Secretary