

FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held March 3, 2022

Meeting called to order at 5:34PM.

Present: Norma St. John, Margaret Considine, Mark Considine, Laura Clerkin, Sally Fitzgerald, Kay Kerr, Estelle LaFleur.

Doug Harman, the Chair of the Board of the Library Trustees, stopped in to say thanks for the support of the Friends over the years and especially for taking care of things that aren't in the budget.

November 4, 2021 FOBPL Minutes: Norma motioned to accept the minutes and Mark seconded. All in favor. **NOTE: There wasn't a quorum in December so there was no meeting.**

Treasurer's Report: Current balances: The checking account balance is \$9,838.98 and the CD balance is \$8,742.76 for a total of \$18,581.74.

Margaret motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and Sally seconded. All in favor.

Old Business:

- Christmas Party December 18th, 2021- follow up
 - o Laura shared that the event was well attended and ran well. All had a good time.
- Gingerbread House contest- follow up
 - o There were five entries. The Trustee Board and the Friends Board voted for the winner of the gift certificate, and the second prize, a Gingerbread Cookbook, was the prize for the popular vote.
- New website
 - o It is up and running. The Friends have a page on the website. Laura has been populating the Friends page and appreciates any copy that folks want to share for the Friends.
 - o Laura will begin to add the approved minutes from the Friends meetings.
 - o The website is www.bethlehemlibrary.org
- Competition for Dino's new name
 - o We will discuss this at the next meeting.

New Business:

- Co-op Partner of the Month for 2023
 - o Will address next month.
- Bookmark/Marketing
 - o Chelsey shared some possible designs for a bookmark. We need to add the Friends' email address. Everyone in attendance selected option #2 for the bookmark.
- Grant that Laura was awarded for the library.
 - o The Friends are partnering with the library and are creating a pollinator garden on the bank behind the library. The garden will be used by the recreation center and the Bethlehem Elementary School as well as being enjoyed by the community.
 - o Laura said there will be benches, additional musical instruments, tables, a security camera, and a sign to direct people to the yard area. These things will be covered by the grant.
 - o The Friends will take care of the garden on the slope and will need to decide on what to put in the garden.
 - o We will start work late spring and volunteers are needed.

- Books for babies
 - o The Friends purchase and donate books to the library in honour of the babies born in Bethlehem the previous year.
 - o Purchase for 2021? There are eight children who were born in 2021. In 2020 there were six children born and the cost was approximately \$80.00. Norma motioned that the Friends purchase the books for 2021 for approximately \$100.00. Margaret seconded. All in favor.
 - o Do we want to continue voting on it every year or vote to make it an annual purchase? Laura could notify treasurer of cost annually prior to purchasing books. Estelle motioned to make it an automatic annual purchase and Sally seconded. Margaret expressed concern that there could be a large number of children born which would become expensive. Five are in favor and one is opposed. The motion passed.
- Laura requested of the Friends to pay for the new office desk and the computer set up for the library staff. The total cost is \$1,802.81.
 - o Norma motioned to pay for the purchase of the office desk and the computer set up for the library at a cost of \$1,802.81. Kay seconded. Discussion: Margaret stated that the expense is extremely high and shared that she is uncomfortable authorizing such a large purchase. Norma explained that the Friends have always purchased furnishings for the library. Margaret also believes that something of that high an expense should be proposed at one meeting and voted on at the next meeting. Norma explained that the Friends are in existence to support the library. Not everyone is at every meeting to vote on expenditures. Five in favor and one opposed. The motion passed.
 - o Margaret suggested that when a large expenditure equal to the organization's entire annual income is made, it should be proposed at one meeting and voted on at the next meeting. Margaret would like this to be an item for the agenda at the next meeting.
- The library needs new 'browsing buckets' for the children's nonfiction collection. The cost would be approximately \$200.00. Laura is shelving the request because the sample buckets received aren't acceptable. This will be brought up at a future meeting.
- Kathy wants to do the Peeps diorama contest again this year. In the past, the Friends have purchased the prizes for the winners. The cost for this year would be approximately \$40.00. Margaret motioned to approve that expenditure and Mark seconded. All in favor.
- Bake sale - suggest we refrain from running a bake sale during the March 2022 voting. All agreed.

The next Friends meeting is April 7, 2022 at 5:30PM. (Estelle will be out of town and Laura volunteered to take the minutes.)

Margaret motioned to adjourn and Sally seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.
Submitted by Estelle LaFleur.