

FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held April 7, 2022

Board Members present: Hilary Veilleux, Norma St. John, Mary Polaski, Kay Kerr, Margaret Considine, Mark Considine

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order 5:39 pm

March 3, 2022 FOBPL minutes: Margaret wanted to add to the March minutes that Mark was reimbursed for the purchase of the Peeps plush toys, but was told that it would be reflected in the current minutes. Margaret also said that Kay did a great job leading the March meeting in Hilary's absence. Norma motioned to accept the minutes as is, seconded by Mary. All in favor.

Treasurer's report: The CD current balance \$8,743.26, checking account current balance \$8,084.27 for a total of \$16,827.53. The transaction report shows that Mark was reimbursed \$14.90 for the purchase of the Peeps plush toys. The dinosaur bank was emptied by Hilary and Norma and \$43.60 was deposited. Margaret asked if there could be an income statement distributed to show where funds are coming from. She also asked about past Pollard Brook payments; this is for the timeshare that the Friends are still responsible for maintaining every other year. Kay motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Margaret. All in favor.

Old Business

Bookmarks: Though the board voted last month for one of the four samples Chelsey had mocked up, Hilary asked why not use all four? There was a discussion of the size of the bookmark (either two or four per 8 ½ x 11 paper). Some of the bookmarks will be at the circulation desk. Laura asked for at least 30 so that they can be included in the new library card packets. The library also has an application in the packets. Motion made by Margaret to authorize Hilary to purchase ink and card stock, seconded by Mary. Motion passed. Estelle will print the book marks and they can be cut using the library's cutter.

Competition for Dino's name: When Mary posted about the bank on Facebook, she received four suggestions for a name. It was decided that Chelsey will advertise for a name on Facebook, giving it a month for suggestions. Laura said she would be happy to share FOBPL's post to the Library Facebook page.

Pollinator Garden: Hilary contacted Rhienna Miscio at BES Garden Club about the club helping with the garden. Rhienna thought it a good idea, and said Carol Bays of the Garden Club should also be involved. Hilary corresponded with Carol, who had several questions, which Hilary answered. Carol would like to meet to discuss further. Kay contacted Audrey Crowe, landscape designer. She is willing to help pro bono. Hilary will put together a preliminary garden plan and then contact Audrey for consultation. Hilary is hoping some of the plants will be donated from divisions that people have. This will help augment the \$500 that the Friends have earmarked.

Peeps Diorama: voting is next week, April 11-16. Winner will be decided by popular vote.

StoryWalk: Clean up day is Saturday May 21st, 9am-Noon. Hilary will bring chain saws to clear stumps. The Friends need to purchase and install a small metal plaque in memory of Elaine Stroop. The Friends can then offer the public the opportunity to make a donation for a plaque in memory of someone. These plaques will be installed on the 4x4 post of each podium. Laura will contact W.E. Baum to get a cost for plaques and engraving.

New Business

Trustees Letter: Laura explained that the email sent to Doug Harman (Trustee Chairman), and then printed and given to Nora Clark (Vice Chairman) and Tana LeClair (Secretary), regarding the Friends trying for Littleton Coop Partner of the Month later this year was from Mary, and she was trying to ascertain if the Trustees would support this. Laura said the Trustees discussed the email, and appointed Laura to give a response. The Trustees are always in support of and appreciative of all that the Friends do to help the Library. The Trustees volunteered to write a letter of support for this endeavor, to be posted online, on social media, and sent to the press. They also agreed to the Friends' bookmarks being at the library to help promote voting at the Coop.

Regarding communication between the Trustees and Friends, the Trustee Board asks that the Friends agree to one point-person to contact the Trustees when communication is necessary. Then Hilary, or a designee, would contact the Board to speak at the next Trustee meeting.

Mary and Margaret pointed out that their appearance at a recent Trustee meeting was approved prior by the FOBPL board.

Notification of financial requests prior to monthly meeting: With regard to Margaret's proposal last meeting that financial requests of the library be introduced one month, and voted on the next month, the Board felt that this would delay expenditures too long.

Hilary proposed that on the third week of the month, she ask Laura for any upcoming financial requests to be discussed at the next FOBPL meeting. Any request by Laura, or expenditure by a Friends member, which is \$500 or more will be emailed to the Board and any participating members. This will give the Board two weeks to ask questions, and would be enough time to vote on the expenditure at the next meeting.

Hilary felt that the expenditure emails should only go to those participating members, not the entire FOBPL member roster. Margaret is concerned that if the Friends want to attract new members, the Board should be asking for their input. There was a discussion and clarification of who can vote. The By-Laws state that each member has one vote and must be cast in person; therefore, non-Board FOBPL members can vote at meetings.

Mary made the motion outlined by Hilary, with Kay seconding. All in favor.

Margaret would like to discuss at a future meeting changing the by-laws to allow for proxy voting.

Coop Partner of the Month: Mary is not willing to be the lead person on this, but will help if needed. This issue will be revisited next month, and if no one steps forward, the issue will be dropped.

Eclipse 2024: something to be thinking about for library programming.

Mark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Norma. Meeting adjourned 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Clerkin
For Estelle Lafleur