

Friends of the Griffin Free Library - August 7, 2023

Present: Pat Davenport, Pat Clement, Brenda Beer, Cindy Berling, Terry Coll, Nancy Mayland, Cathy Sartorelli, Elaine Willett, Dan Szczesny, Hope Garner, Jessica Traynor, Marie Sullivan, Fay Hanscomb, Karen Murray

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM.

Secretary's Report

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept made by Nancy and 2nd by Brenda.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$3864.34

Motion to accept made by Brenda and 2nd by Terry.

Friends' Old Business

Donated Santa - Jess shared that the donated Santa is for sale at a shop in Arundel, ME.

Shed - We will clean out the shed after the Duck Race.

Book Sale - The book sale profit is \$5191. \$50 is still owed for pizza from this profit. There will be a post Book Sale meeting held at a future date.

Friends' New Business

Library Directional Sign - Cathy noted that there are no directional road signs in town to indicate the way to the library. She looked into places to purchase these signs and the cost. In addition to the sign with a picture of a reader we would want the word library and an arrow pointing in the direction of the library. Poles and brackets are also needed.

The consensus is one sign should be placed at the 4 corners in the Village. A second sign should be placed near the Welcome to Auburn sign and flags across from the Auburn Tavern.

A motion was made by Brenda to spend up to \$400 to purchase 2 library signs with all the accessories needed. 2nd by Terry. The motion passed unanimously.

Duck Race 9/9/23 - Pat C. shared information regarding the Friends' Booth which will sell popcorn, drinks and Pick-A-Duck. In addition this year the Friends will have a 50/50 drawing. Nancy volunteered to get the permit for this. Volunteers will be needed for this event. Pat shared a sign-up sheet. Tables and pop-up tents are also needed. Volunteers are still needed for the 11:30-3:00 shift as well as one table. Those who were not at the meeting can sign-up at the library to volunteer or provide a table.

Pat has gotten several donations for Pick-A-Duck prizes, but additional donations are needed. Please reply to this email or contact Pat if you are able to get additional donations.

Friends Membership List - The membership list needs to be updated. Karen will send emails to those who do not regularly attend meetings to find out if they still want to be members.

There was discussion regarding dues and membership cards which have been done in the past. The consensus was not to do either at this time.

Sarah Andrews, Library Fundraising Consultant - Sarah introduced herself to our group and talked about the 501c3 status and launching into fundraising for the Library Expansion Project. She explained the Library Expansion Steering Committee does not have a 501c3 status at this time. Obtaining this status will take quite a while and the steering committee would like to begin accepting donations ASAP. Sarah also noted the 501c3 status must be in place for 2 years before being able to apply for money from charitable gaming money and some grants they hope to receive.

Due to these facts Sarah made a request to the Friends. The Friends were asked if the Library Expansion Steering Committee could open a separate bank account under the Friends' 501c3.

There was much discussion and many questions. When this was discussed at our May meeting we were told a Foundation would be formed for the building project. This has not occurred. The capital campaign to fundraise for the building project will be done by the Library Expansion Steering Committee. Some members of the Friends voiced their concerns and some felt pressured as we previously voted down a similar request. We were assured that this request is different as there is now a Library Expansion Steering Committee

in place. They do invite and encourage us to attend the Steering Committee meetings.

The Friends were guaranteed that there would be no additional expenses, tax implications, or additional work for our group. Sarah explained this could be put into a written agreement. Any additional tax forms and reporting will be done by those who serve on the Library Expansion Steering Committee which will be a subcommittee of the Friends. The Library Expansion Steering Committee will have its own treasurer who will be someone with a financial background. They will also have someone to take minutes. The Friends will be updated regularly regarding progress.

When asked if a lawyer had been consulted, Sarah explained since the mission of the Friends is aligned with the mission of the Expansion Committee this is not necessary.

The following motion was made by Brenda and 2nd by Pat C.:

The Friends will allow the Library Expansion Steering Committee to open a bank account under the Friends' 501c3 for the purpose of a capital campaign fundraising with a designated financial liaison from the steering committee.

The motion passed, but not unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 Made by Elaine, 2nd by Pat C.

Next meeting: **Tuesday,* Sept. 5, 2023** @7pm at the library.

*We will meet on Tuesday since the 1st Monday is a holiday.

Karen Murray, Secretary