

Friends of the Griffin Free Library - January 8, 2024

Present: Jess Traynor, Pat Clement, Joanne Linxweiler, Terry Coll, Pat Allard, Dan Szczesny, Cindy Berling, Cathy Sartorelli, Terry Coll, Pat Davenport, Brenda Beer, Nancy Mayland, Marie Sullivan, Fay Hanscomb, Marion Miller, Brenda Brunelli, Karen Murray

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Pat D shared a month by month summary of the Friends' meetings and events of 2023. In addition she shared 2024 meeting dates, current fundraisers and potential fundraisers for 2024.

Secretary's Report

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. Karen thanked Cathy for putting together the documents with feedback and suggestions for the Santa Breakfast.

A motion was made to accept the secretary's report.

1st Pat C. and 2nd Nancy

Treasurer's Report

\$1800+ from Santa Breakfast

Paypal \$9.81

Current balance is \$6000.50

Jess gave Marie a check for \$237.50 from the sale of the donated Santa.

Karen gave Marie \$7.00 from returned items from the Santa Breakfast.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report.

1st Joanne and 2nd Terry

Director's Report

End of Year Report

Dan shared that 2023 ended with increases in every important statistic:

Circulation Overall - +3.9%

Website Page Views - +14.5%

Website Visitors - +16.8%

Patron Count - +40.8% (10,035 first time above 10K)

Donations - +173%

Despite the heavy usage, the overall budget came in 9% under with utilities and 4.5% under without utilities.

The library is absolutely bursting at the seams. Facility control, supply usage and collection development will take center stage in 2024.

Museum Passes

The year 2023 was also the biggest year for Museum Pass usage with 197 passes used for a 25.1% increase over 2022. Dan shared the number of times each pass was used and also included a cost per pass for a few museums.

NE Aquarium -55 (\$700.00 Cost per pass \$12.70)

See Science Center - 45 (\$250.00 Cost per pass \$5.55)

Discovery Center - 24 (\$400.00 Cost per pass \$16.60)

Bedrock Gardens - 21 (\$125.00 Cost per pass \$5.90)

A focus for 2024 will be to improve the borrowing rate for passes.

The passes for the NE Aquarium, See Science Center and Millyard Museum will expire soon. Based on the usage of these passes and Dan's recommendation a motion was made to renew the NE Aquarium and the SEE Science Center and to drop the Millyard Museum. 1st Jess and 2nd by Brenda Beer. The motion passed.

Warrant Article

The Trustees and Dan will be meeting with the Select Board at 7:00 tonight to present a reworded Warrant for town meeting. In Dan's report he wrote, "The idea is two-fold, to create a small warrant as a litmus test to the community so we can show the Select Board that support exists to move forward, and also to create a baseline of operation for the library to begin working with Parks and Rec and the town to develop a joint complex."

Old Business

Santa Breakfast

Nancy noted that we should note the cost of all donated items. If these items are not donated in the future it could really impact our profit so we should be aware of the actual cost. In addition we should provide all who donated a letter stating the cost of the items that were donated. People may want to claim their donation on taxes and this letter will be needed.

Jess researched the cost of breakfasts that have recently been held in our area. She found that the price of \$10 for adults that we charged is less than most breakfasts in the area.

Pat C. asked Gary where he purchases plates for breakfasts. He has offered to donate plates for next year. Marie is also willing to continue with this donation, but would need to know specific plates to purchase.

Museum Passes

Dan and Marie spoke about the idea of the Friends giving the library a lump sum of money that will be used to pay for the museum passes throughout the year. Nancy explained this money will go into a special trustee gift account fund. Dan will still continue to provide monthly reports regarding the use of the passes such as which ones will be coming up for renewal and recommendations if the passes should be renewed or not. He explained that having the money upfront will streamline the paperwork and the need to write individual checks. In this scenario, the Friends will still have a say regarding which passes will be renewed although voting won't be necessary as the funding for these passes would have previously been approved. We will continue this discussion at our next meeting.

New Business

Jess made two proposals for the Friends to consider funding.

Pop-Up Art School - Jess suggested that the Friends consider funding a Needle Felting class from the Pop-Up Art School. The cost is \$325 for the instructor and the supplies for 15 participants.

There was discussion regarding if participants should pay for the supplies. Nancy explained if the Friends decide to sponsor/fund and run an event they can decide this. Dan shared the library's policy has been not to charge for events. The decision was made to table this until next month.

Creativebug <https://www.creativebug.com/> Jess shared information about this craft subscription to hundreds of videos with no ads which can be viewed individually from home or with a group in a common setting such as the library. The cost for a library subscription is \$500/year. An unlimited number of videos would be available to any library card holders.

Dan added that this Creativebug subscription can replace the SWANK Streaming membership which has previously been funded for \$600 and was not successful.

A motion was made for the Friends to fund Creativebug for \$500. 1st Brenda Beer and 2nd by Cindy. The motion passed.

Dates for Future Events in 2024

Plant Sale - May 18 We will again work with the Massabesic Garden Club

Book Sale - July 27

Duck Race - Sept. 14

Santa Breakfast - usually the 1st Sunday in December. Pat C. will confirm date with the Auburn PTA. This year the 1st Sunday falls on Thanksgiving weekend.

Plant Sale - Jess shared that Busy beezzz Gardens in Hooksett will start seedlings that we can sell. A motion was made to work with Busy beezz 1st Pat C. and 2nd Pat D.

Author Visit - we will discuss at our next meeting. Dan will generate a list of potential authors.

Pat C. shared that the Historical Association is holding an Old Home Day Display on Jan. 20th.

Motion to adjourn at 7:10 1st Terry 2nd Jess

Next Friends' Meeting: **Monday, February 5, 2023 at 7:00pm** at the library.

Karen Murray
Secretary Friends of the Library