

Friends of the Griffin Free Library - April 1, 2024

Present: Pat Davenport, Marie Sullivan, Cathy Sartorelli, Pat Allard, Judy Bellrose, Fay Hanscomb, Marion Miller, Cindy Berling, Nancy Mayland, Kim Crete, Jess Traynor, Terry Coll, Brenda Brunelli, Dan Szczesny, Sharon O'Leary Graves, and Karen Murray

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Pat started the meeting with the following items:

- Welcome to new member Judy Bellrose. We again thanked Judy for donating the beautiful quilt which will be used for a raffle.
- Thank you to Ron and Cindi Correria for their generous donation of \$150 which was used for purchasing the pass to the Children's Museum of NH.
- Pat asked if members wanted to change the start time of our meetings to 6:30PM. The consensus was to continue with a 7:00 PM start time.

Secretary's Report

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report. 1st Nancy and 2nd Cathy - motion passed

The Welcome Letter for new members is completed. Karen will send this to board members to review.

Treasurer's Report

Museum Pass to Currier \$100

Coffee Supplies \$10.98

Tote Bags (balance) \$503.89

PayPal Charge \$4.37

\$150 returned to account since the Children's Museum of NH pass was purchased with money donated by Ron and Cindi.

Current balance is \$3631.07

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. 1st Fay and 2nd Terry - motion passed

Marie filed our taxes. She is working on the 5 year report for the state which is due in June.

Director's Report

1. Museum Passes

- a. Usage continues to increase with 21 passes borrowed in March for a total of 63 in 2024. This is up from 43 in the 1st quarter of 2023. Most popular passes: SEE Science Center(16), Museum of Science (13), NE Aquarium (12), Discovery Center (11). The Aviation Museum, Zoo NE, and Children's Museum of NH have more than a single use. Bedrock Gardens and Squam Lake Science Center haven't opened yet.
- b. Dan and Jess shared information about the NH Farm Museum in Milton, NH. There are historic buildings and barns on this working farm with a display of animals. The cost is \$75.00.

A motion was made to purchase a pass to this museum. 1st Nancy and 2nd Pat D. - motion passed

2. Creative Bug is well received with 41 subscribers who have used 87 videos of workshops. Although Joann Fabric filed for bankruptcy it won't affect Creative Bug. Check it out if you haven't.
3. Library usage numbers continue to climb! Patron count is up by 23.2% this year over the 1st quarter of 2023.

4. Plastic Bag Drive for Bench- People are asking about donating bags. Fay reported that the group chooses a timeline of 1 year to collect 1,000lbs of plastic. We will get another bench if we do this.

Things to consider:

- Shaws in Hooksett will no longer take the plastic. Last year Elaine found out the Shaws in Derry would take it.
- Plastic bags must be put in large clear bags and weighed. Then a picture should be taken and uploaded to a website. May need to purchase additional large clear plastic bags.
- There will be a dropbox on the porch of the library. Some people already have bags at their homes.
- Fay is not able to work on this project this year. She explained it's time consuming and best to have a team work together.
- Jess volunteered to chair this project. She will begin by calling Shaws in Derry to find out if they will accept the plastic. If not, she will check for another drop-off location.
- Jess volunteered to drop off on Mondays. Marie and Sharon also volunteered to help and Karen will help when needed.
- Jess will let Karen know if this will begin in May so she can write about it in the May Crier article.

5. School Budget Issues/Library Giving Day - the budget overage at the school continues. Due to this we will not do additional advertising for Library Giving Day. Information is in the March and April Crier editions.
6. Eclipse Celebration - Library will be open on Mon., April 8th from 1-5 with the party from 2-4. The parking lot will be closed, but those who are working at the event can park at the Safety Complex.

New Business

Eclipse Celebration Friends' will have a pop tent and table to sell baked goods, water, tote bags, ornaments and quilt raffle tickets.

All baked goods will be sold for \$1.00 so people should package an appropriate amount for this price and label contents. Items can be dropped off at the library on Sat. 4/6 or at 1:00 on 4/8. Items can also be dropped off at Cathy's or Karen's houses. Karen will email all Friends to ask for baked goods and an additional volunteer to help with food sales at the event.

Cathy will sell her ornaments, Karen will sell tote bags and Fay will sell raffle tickets. Fay and Cathy will get money boxes and start-up money from Marie.

Old Business

Tote Bag Fundraiser - Tote bags have arrived and they are great! The bags were sold before and after the meeting. Totes will be sold at the following events: Plant Sale (5/18), Book Sale (7/27 + 7/28), Duck Race (9/14), Voting Days (9/10 + 11/5), Santa Breakfast (12/8).

Cathy asked if we should have a table at the Longmeadow Church Flea Market on 6/1 from 8:30-2:00. Pat A. explained the cost is \$10 if you bring your own table and \$15 if you don't. We will discuss this at our May meeting.

Handmade Tree Ornaments - Cathy's cute handmade tree ornaments, in a variety of fabrics, were on sale before and after the meeting.

Quilt Raffle - Fay volunteered to coordinate this raffle. Tickets will be sold at Eclipse Celebration. Sharon will try to borrow a hanger to display the quilt at the Eclipse Celebration. She has already reserved it for future events. Nancy made and printed the raffle tickets.

Gambling Grant Money - Pat asked about the status of the application for a grant to the Gaming Commission. It was previously shared that Amanda and

Allison were going to apply for this grant, but no one is sure if they did. It was unclear if someone will check with them.

Santa Breakfast Meeting with PTA - Cindy and Cathy will be meeting with PTA people on Friday. There was discussion on possible people to be Santa as well as outfits for Santa and the elves.

Application for Membership - some people feel we should have an application for new members to fill out. Cindy shared there is a section on the website that new members can submit. Fay previously shared the Hooksett application with Karen.

Pick A Duck - Pat D. shared that Pat C. can't go from place to place to get gift cards this year. She is willing to write letters to the businesses. Marie suggested we get the list of businesses and have a group of people share the job of asking for donations. Marie will get the list and send it to Karen who will share it with all members. We will discuss further at the May meeting.

Author Visits

1. Sisters in Crime www.sincne.org Karen will resend email with info on their programs.
A motion was made to have a Sisters in Crime event. 1st Marie and 2nd Fay - motion passed.
This event will be held at the school. Dan will call school to check availability.
2. John Rockwood <https://www.facebook.com/THE.LOON.MAN/> - Dan will check if John is available either 9/19 or 10/10. It was also discussed to have him speak in August.

Craft Swap - April 13 at the library

Plant Sale - the subcommittee will meet on 4/15 at 10AM at the library. They will need a Digging Committee, coffee mugs that are appropriate for kids to use for planting, donations of pots, and cardboard flats like the ones at BJ's that are from fruits and berries.

Action Items

1. Karen - send "Welcome Letter" to board members to review.
2. All - Check out Creative Bug site
3. All check out the Friends' website <https://friendsofgriffinfree.org/>
Cindy has made changes to the front page and it looks good. Send information for Friends website to Cindy at CindyBerling@gmail.com
4. Jess - call Shaws in Derry to find out if they will take plastic bags.
5. Jess - let Karen know if plastic bag drive will begin in May so she can write about it in the May Crier article
6. For Eclipse Celebration
 - a. Karen send email for baked goods. Cooler with ice and water
 - b. Nancy check how much water she has
 - c. Cathy bring table
 - d. Fay and Cathy to get money box and start-up money from Marie.
 - e. Sharon check if she can borrow a hanger to display quilt
7. Check with Amanda and Allison about the status of Gaming Grant ?
8. Application for membership ?
9. Karen resend email about Sisters in Crime
10. Marie get list of business for Pick-A-Duck Donation and send to Karen to send to members
11. Dan - call school to check availability for Sisters in Crime event and set a date with John Rockwood
12. Pat D. - Agenda item for May - table at Longmeadow flea market, Pick-A-Duck

Motion to adjourn at 8:15PM 1st Marie, 2nd Pat

Next Friends' Meeting: **Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00pm** at the library.

Karen Murray
Secretary Friends of the Griffin Free Library