

Friends of the Griffin Free Library - December 2, 2024

Present: Pat Davenport, Marie Sullivan, Nancy Mayland, Jess Traynor, Liz Michaud, Sharon O'Leary Graves, Patti Allard, Marion Miller, Brenda Brunelli, Joanne Linxweiler, Terry Coll, Ron Correia, Cindy Berling, Jordan Asselin, Dan Szczesny, Karen Murray, Cathy Sartorelli- attended by phone

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Secretary's Report

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

Membership - We have 33 members. Two corrections have been made to the membership so the list will be resent. Let Karen know if you do not want your contact information shared.

Treasurer's Report

Balance		\$6155.81
11/12 John Rockwood (speaker)	-150.00	6005.81
11/30 Interest	+ .06	6005.87

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

1st Nancy and 2nd Brenda - motion passed.

Director's Report

1. **Museum Passes** - November is generally the weakest month for circulation and passes. Still 12 passes went out, so the yearly total thus far is 231. Last year the total through November was 188 passes. This year is a 22.8% increase.

Museum Pass Updates:

- a. **SEE Science Center** had the most usage.
 - b. **Currier** - is coming due next.
2. **Creative Bug** - There was again an increase in Nov., from 32 to 37 views. It's good news this service is being used more in the colder months and will monitor to see if this trend continues. Currently 86 active users. A good goal is 100 by the end of the year. Please continue to share on social media to get more people signed up.
 3. **Patron Usage and General Stats** - Dan will email the circulation numbers.
Patron Usage - Circulation Overall -
New Patrons - Book Donations -

The hearing with the Budget Committee went as well as Dan thought could be expected. The budget the Select Board recommended was approved by the Budget Committee. The library asked for 8 more hours in staffing to handle the increase and Dan hopes the compromised 4 additional hours will be enough for 2025. It's unlikely that the library will be able to expend budget/resources toward bigger community events like last year's Eclipse Party in 2025.

4. **Pavilion Fundraising** - The pavilion is up and it looks great.
 - There were additional donations, from a variety of people and groups including the Garden Club and huge donations from the Auburn Democrats. Only \$525 is needed from the Friends of the Library who had previously approved a donation of up to \$2000.
 - \$3025 was raised and the construction cost was \$3550
 - The goal is to have an official dedication in the spring

Old Business

Stationary and Note Cards - Nancy got quotes for Friends' letterhead and folding notecards with envelopes. She shared the sample and pricing. Nancy also explained there will be a 10% discount. There was discussion regarding how many to order.

A motion was made to purchase 500 of each with a cost of:

500 Folding Cards = \$350.82 500 Letterhead = \$145.66

1st Marie and 2nd Jess - motion passed.

Santa Breakfast - Dec. 8th 8:00-11:00 Set-up Dec. 7th 3:00-5:00 at AVS

- Cindy shared a document that listed food options, people cooking, people serving, people donating items and additional notes. There was discussion and additions were made. Anything else people want to bring is fine and welcomed.
- Jordan shared that 4-5 teens from her group will volunteer.
- Shaws and Hannaford donated gift cards. In addition funds that were donated by individuals will be used to purchase items.
- Gary shared the amount of items he is donating is \$177.60.
- Pat D. will transport boxes from the shed to the school. These boxes will be packed in her truck on Friday.
- Those cooking should be at the school on Sunday at 6AM and non-cooking volunteers should arrive about 7AM.
- Jess will continue to share on Facebook. Others please share as well.
- Cindy put out 3 Santa Breakfast signs
- Elf costumes are finished

Friends Fundraisers Update - Ornament sale is now over \$1100!

- Nov. 5th Election Day - 75 ornaments sold for \$225, 1 tote sold and \$81 in donations.
- Nov. 21 Craft Fair - 30 ornaments sold for \$90 and \$28 Patriots Gear Basket Raffle Tickets.

John Rockwood - 14 or 15 people attended and most of these were from our Friends' group. Those who attended enjoyed his presentation.

Friends of the Library Group Idea Sharing Event - The next meeting will be in the spring. Space is usually limited so only a few from each town can attend.

The Owl - We should consider using this again. No one knows how to work it. It may be a good project for Jordan's teen group.

New Business

Patriots Gear Basket Raffle - Lynne Howard generously donated a basket full of Patriots gear for the Friends to Raffle. The value of the items is \$175. This basket is on display at the library and tickets are also available for purchase there. Thank you to the Library Staff, Dan and the Trustees for allowing us to sell tickets and helping with our sales. The basket will also be on display at the Santa breakfast with tickets available to purchase there as well. The drawing will be Dec. 20th at noon at the library. Tickets are \$2/each or \$10/6 tickets.

Liability Insurance - Jess asked if the Friends have liability insurance as the need for this coverage was discussed at the Joint Library Friends Group event she attended. The answer is we do not have this insurance, but we should investigate purchasing it. Jess will reach out to people at the meeting to find out the names of insurance companies.

What Kinds of Programming Should We Do? - How can we get people in the community including kids and families involved? Some ideas are:

- Children's Author Event
- Jordan's Teen Advocacy Group (TAG) may have ideas. This group consists of 5-10 youth who are involved in activities at the library. Jordan will talk to those in the group.
- Dan suggested we have a subcommittee for PR and Promotions. The focus could be membership, outreach to the school, and grants. Maybe they could meet prior to regularly scheduled meetings.
- The question of whether there is an age requirement to be a Friend of the library was asked. Pat looked at the bylaws and reported all are welcome in our group.

Elections

- Marie is eligible to serve 1 more year as treasurer and she agreed to continue in this position.
- Karen is eligible to serve 1 more year as secretary and she agreed to continue in this position.
- Cathy was nominated for President - 1st Karen and 2nd Brenda
Cathy accepted the nomination.
- Pat D. was nominated for Vice-President - 1st Karen and 2nd Liz
Pat accepted the nomination.

There was a unanimous vote to approve the slate of officers listed above.

Library Appreciation- Nancy shared that the Library Staff and Friends of the Library are invited to attend a gathering at her house on 1/17 at 5:30. More information will follow.

Penguin Random House Grant - Pat shared there are training dates to learn more about this grant opportunity. Karen remembers receiving an email about this. She will look for it and forward it to the board members.

Privacy Issues and Confidentiality - Dan shared that some people have come into the library and asked for contact information for some members of our group. He explained that the library staff will not give out this information as it is confidential. Members are concerned about this. In the future people looking for information can contact secretary@friendsofgriffinfree.org or info@friendsofgriffinfree.org
Karen receives emails from both of these addresses.

Action Items

1. All - share information on Creative Bug to increase interest
2. Nancy - order stationary and notecards - 500 of each.
3. Jess - investigate information on liability insurance
4. Jordan - Get ideas from TAG members about ways we can get more involvement with our programs
5. Jordan - Ask the TAG members to check out the Owl device
6. Karen - forward email with Penguin Random House Grant to the board members

Motion to adjourn at 7:50PM 1st Joanne and 2nd Terry - motion passed.

Next Friends' Meetings: **January 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at the library.

Karen Murray
Secretary Friends of the Griffin Free Public Library