

Friends of Boyden Library
Minutes of September Meeting
September 6, 2023

Present: Betsy Buckland, Sue Collins, Sara Halton, Bernadette Thie, Don Jenkins, Margi Rossetti, Lesleyann Foster, Charles DiPompo, Katherine Howard, Director Libby O'Neill, Youth Services Librarian Emma Brelsford, Teen Librarian Jennifir Huston, Trustee Kevin Penders & Guest Ed Miller

Betsy Buckland called the meeting to order. Thanked everyone for all their hard work during summer & all year round. Introduced Ed Miller who is interested in joining. Betsy wanted to acknowledge and honor Joanne Pratt. She was President of the Friends for many years. We owe her a large debt of gratitude. Joanne was also a Community Leader. Some donations are coming in. We will do something in her name at a later date.

Approval of June 7, 2023 Minutes: Sue Collins presented the Minutes
Margi made a motion to accept the Minutes; second by Sara. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Sara Halton presented the Treasurer's Report

Income:

- Some Book Shop numbers are missing, will amend those numbers at the next meeting
- A few memberships came in over the summer
- Some donations are coming in memory of Joanne Pratt
- Southwick Zoo passes were very popular

Expenses:

- Paid for adult & children's programming & some supplies

Sue made a motion to accept the Report, second by Betsy. Motion passed.

Director's Report: Libby O'Neill

- Had a great summer with programs for all ages!
- Many participated in Book Bingo. 5 gift cards were given away in a drawing sponsored by Friends
- Potting Workshop & Batik Art night were popular, sponsored by Friends
- Upcoming Program: Seed Saving Workshop & Bad Art Night
- Cannabis Program, not sponsored by Friends
- Fused Glass Program which is very popular is sponsored by Ann Clark Donation
- State Wide Program of Freedom to Read to celebrate Banned Book Week. People can come to the Community Room & bring in whatever book they want to read.
- Strategic Plan finished. Trustees will now review it & approve it.
- Reviewing applications now for our new Department Administrator position. Interviews will start mid-September

Report from Teen Librarian: Jennifir Huston

- Had a fun, busy summer!
- A nice group of steady volunteers has developed
- Escape room with 4 sessions for different ages
- Had a Social Media Awareness Program for parents
- Crafty Teen program was very popular

- Succulent Potting program coming up
- Axolotl Workshop which is an unusual looking amphibian
- Jennifir & Emma want to buy gift cards for prizes. Sara will assist them.
- A tutor & Jennifir have been mentoring students who have been bullied in school. It is wonderful that our library is a safe space
- Thanked Friends for donating prizes for Summer Reading
- Bought 2 games for Virtual Reality gaming system

Report from Youth Services Librarian: Emma Brelsford

- Thanked Friends for sponsoring 11 programs during summer – most popular was a magician, music program, Teddy Bear Picnic & Escape Room. Very busy! 494 participants just for Friends Sponsored programs!
- Music Rocks program-Frida Kahlo Fiesta, Professor Bugman, Infant Massage & Sign Language Program
- Parent Workshop to help parents of Special Needs Students with Individual Ed. Plans (IEPs)
- Animal & Vet program– Vet demonstrates how to care for their pets. Children can bring in their stuffed animals
- Thanked Sara for setting up Amazon to help pay for supplies that are ordered
- Bought supplies for Halloween: temporary tattoos & treats for Trick or Treating in Library in lieu of candy
- Will purchase 2 Michaels gift cards for Inktober drawing challenge prizes

Trustee Report: Kevin Penders

- Reorganized Board: Current Chair-Kevin Penders, Vice Chair-Christine Freeman Igo, Clerk-Jen Ooi
- Had summer hiatus so quiet summer for Trustees
- Thanked Friends for all that we do
- Strategic Plan is finished but Trustees will look at it at next meeting
- Friends signed up for Trustees meetings: Sept 12.-Sue, Oct. 10 -Katherine, Nov. 14- Betsy

Membership: Don Jenkins

- Memberships have slowed down, Ed Miller joined tonight
- 7 new memberships, (9 Individuals), 1 brand new
- Total 2023: 179 memberships, (191 individuals), 44 brand new
- Some did not renew memberships so numbers stayed relatively the same
- Janice tweaked what things we do or don't do for Don so he could update materials. Don is very thankful for Sara's expertise in making membership materials look really nice & different

Newsletter: Bernadette Thie

- Wants Newsletter to come out October 10th so articles & photos must be in by October 1st. Be sure that events you advertise happen after the 10th. Will send emails to Board members to submit Articles
- Will advertise Book Drive, Book Sale, Fall Social & library events
- Recap of Teddy Bear Picnic, Spring Social & large donations

Media/PR: Jen Linskey was unable to attend, Sara Halton reported

- No publicity was needed over summer but will help publicize Book Drives, Book Sale & Social

Book Shops: Margi Rossetti

- This summer we had a lot of calls for large book donations, including Dr. Peterson, 2 retired Social Studies teachers who donated a lot of history books, many mysteries from a grandmother, DVDs, retired elementary school teacher donated many children's books, plus a couple of boxes of unusable books were disposed of
- Appreciated that sorters came in for extra days or stayed longer than they usually do to sort out all these book donations
- Margi feels like she should write up what books we are looking for, have a link on website and Foxboro Reporter. Board discussed concerns and options for handling large donations. Lesleyann felt bad she couldn't help because there was such short notice. Perhaps we should create various crews that could go out to homes & sort there. Maybe have a Scout to see if their books are worthwhile. They should definitely be a Friend.
- Have been putting \$5 stickers on 2023 books. They are selling!
- Swag – did find possibilities: keychain flashlights or keychain hand sanitizers. Will send out info

Book Sale/Donation Days: Lesleyann Foster

- Book Drives: September 30 & October 28 – 9-11 am -created some new flyers & bookmarks. Suggested people sign up but not required
- Book Sale November 15 setup, 16, 17, 18. Discussion of a "member only" time on Wednesday night & Bag Sale on Friday. The sellers turned members off in the past, perhaps set a book limit. Have people sign up.
- Have book coupons for Volunteers & Friends who come to Book Sale
- Will have Sign Up Genius for Book Drives & Book Sale for Volunteers

Old Business:

1. Friends Social: Sara Halton

Date is October 17 at Union Straw 7-9 pm, cash bar & appetizers. Jen is donating some wine from Martinetti's. Union Straw will donate some gift cards that can be prizes. We have money in our budget for this event. Maximum is for only 30 people. This should be a reward for Friends but bring a friend who can join. Friends need to pre-register with Sign Up Genius. Board Members should leave room if it gets too crowded but can stay in restaurant/bar area.

2. Founders Day: Sue Collins

Charles, Betsy & Rick, Katherine & Gary & my daughter Kathleen helped out. Had a great spot right next to Strawberry Shortcake booth! Sold books, free lollipops, temporary tattoos & lawn games. Emma & Jennifir played games with visitors! Libby & family stopped by. Great day!

3. Teddy Bear Picnic: Sue Collins

Sara & I set up a table on the Common. Free lollipops attracted children. Sold several books. Glad Sara was equipped to help parents who did not have cash. The 5-piece Band was excellent! Balloon Man attracted a lot of people. Ice Cream Truck did a good business. Emma had a fun time with the large crowd. 150 people signed up but other people were attracted that day,

New Business:

1. **Software for non-profit organizations:** Sara found some good options. Don & Sara would like to work together because it could also help keep track of memberships

Action Items: Sue Collins

none

Adjourn: Sara made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Katherine. Motion passed.

Next meeting: October 4, 2023

Meeting at 7:00 pm in Community Meeting Room

Respectfully submitted: Sue Collins