

**Friends of Boyden Library**  
**Minutes of February Meeting**  
**February 7, 2024**

**Present:** Janice Rosado, Betsy Buckland, Sue Collins, Bernadette Thie, Colleen McManus, Lesleyann Foster, Katherine Howard, Charles DiPompo, Betsy Lorusso,  
Director Libby O'Neill, Youth Services Librarian Emma Brelsford, Trustee Kevin Penders  
Guests: Alyne Ricker, Maureen Ryan, Loni Ivanovskis, Kelly Conger, Christine Leslie

Janice Rosado called the meeting to order.

**Approval of January 3, 2024 Minutes: Sue Collins**

Katherine made a motion to accept the Minutes; seconded by Colleen. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report/2024 Budget Approval: Sara Halton** is unable to attend. **Janice** presented:

**Annual Budget 2023** showed that we made more than we spent. Adult and Teen Expenses went a little over. Youth Services came in a little under budget. During pandemic we purchased some online services. We have the Bartholomew Account for excess funds. Sara started using a new software program called MoneyMinder because it makes reports easier to manage and allows us to track memberships and volunteers

**January** report showed our income included Adam's AR Prime Supply check. Our Membership drive just for January brought in \$3,235. Under Adult Expenses we spent a little more than \$1,000. Our income was a little over \$5,000. We now have Discover Books who have been great picking up books at library & donor's homes.

We recently signed a contract with them so will now receive two cents per pound in quarterly payments Pay Pal has been set up so people can buy books & pay for membership at Circulation Desk.

**Proposed Budget:** Southwick Zoo tickets were very popular. We will buy 125 at a discount. (\$20 per ticket vs the \$25 we have paid in the past). Expenses: we increased the budget a little for Administrative Expenses, Youth expenses budget increased by \$500 and Teen Expenses budget increased by \$350 from last year.

Colleen made a motion to accept the January, Annual Report & Proposed Budgets, second by Charles. Motion passed.

**Director's Report: Libby O'Neill**

- The pods are popular, used as a single study space.
- Thanked Friends for Adult programming sponsored by Friends: Art Workshop, Temperance Movement speaker, Nancy Drew speaker was excellent, Organizational/decluttering program. The Traveling Librarian is a virtual program, will talk about Greek Islands.
- Human Library in March. Friends sponsored licensing fees.
- Upcoming programs: Celtic Chocolate & Beer Can Museum
- In FY '22 only had 185 programs; FY '23 Had 416 programs! So far FY '24 have had 330! Libby wants the library to be a resource center for our community.
- Library Sponsoring Community Reads with Brendan Slocum's *The Violin Conspiracy*. Lots of programming around the Music Theme, such as a Musical Sound Board that has electrical wires that you can hook up to vegetables & it picks up the sound they make. In addition, the library will purchase a violin for the Library of Things.
- Libby asked if a Friend could sell books on March 27.
- Murder Mystery Program on March 7. Libby asked if we would sponsor this program. Janice made a motion to fund \$800 for Murder Mystery Program, second by Betsy. Motion passed.

- We also previously approved printing costs for the Community Reads publicity.

**Report from Teen Librarian: Jennifer Huston** unable to attend. Libby presented:

- Friends sponsoring Crafty Teens & Accessories with Saloni
- Snackable Chats & Delicious Sips continues to be a Teen advisory board

**Report from Youth Services Librarian: Emma Brelsford**

- In connection with the Community Reads, children will paint music boxes, make guitars with rubber bands, make a hand-cranked music box. Little violins have been purchased to give out to participants.
- Online Art Exhibit, share your musical talent
- Had "Take Your Child to the Library", guess the number of books in Children's Dept
- Programming: Baby Sign Language, Kid Yoga Class.
- Planning April vacation: Puppet Pals, Little Chefs Cooking Program
- Starting Summer Reading Programs: Teddy Bear Picnic, Didgeeridoo Down Under & Traveling Australian Band

**Trustee Report: Kevin Penders**

- The use of the library is dynamically changing as you heard from all the librarians. We are more concerned with programming & we want patrons engaged.
- We wanted a full-time Teen Librarian for years & then the Pandemic tightened the budget. We will fight to have Teen Librarian full time. Jennifer is amazing, we need her more when the teens are here. Budgets & re-elections. \$1.27 million budget, a 4.5% increase, most of which is for the full time Teen Librarian. Town Hall has recommended that there cannot be a Full time Teen Librarian. Kevin and Libby will meet with the Advisory Committee to discuss finding \$24,000 somewhere in the budget to fund the full-time position. Hopefully, Ad Com will support the Trustees proposal. Trustees continue on their quest for a full time Teen Librarian.
- Two seats are available, Collin is stepping down at this point and Anisul Chowdhury.
- Kevin gave a quick summary of duties of Trustees for new attendees. They are responsible for the operational functioning of the library,
- Friends attending Trustee Meetings: Betsy 2/15; Sue 3/12; Janice 4/9

**Membership: Colleen McManus**

- In January, there were 64 paid memberships, 4 new members.
- Lesleyann saw there are members that were out of town members. Curious about that. Colleen will send Lesleyann information.

Betsy brought up the different categories & what they mean is rather confusing. Wants to work on that and update the text on the website.

**Book Shop: Margi Rossetti** unable to attend. **Janice** presented:

- Donations have been steady.
- Adam gave us a check
- Six Strings Grill, with the Dolly Parton Event collected 68 books they donated
- Margi is putting together Membership Raffle Bag

**Book Sale: Lesleyann Foster**

- To Do: Bookmarks with Book Sale Dates
- Design Flyers for Book Sale publicity
- Suggested bundles for Adult Current Fiction. Use your judgement for kids book bundles

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Action Items:** Sue Collins - None

**Adjourn:** Betsy Lorusso made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Betsy Buckland. Motion passed.

**Next meeting:** March 6, 2024

**Meeting at 7:00 pm in Community Meeting Room**

Respectfully submitted: Sue Collins