

Friends of the Lacey Timberland Library

Board Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2022

Call to Order: President John Grausam call the meeting to order at 12 noon.

Members Present: John Grausam, Jane Collins, Jessica Strozewski, Larry Russell, Becky Russell, Holly Paxson, Mary Gardner and Rob Conor.

Approval of Minutes: Approved Oct. 2021 minutes after Holly clarified that the \$7500 outside donation was to pay for new equipment for Friends activities, including new spinner book racks for Book Place, and new display cart for Hawks Prairie Annex. Approved January 12, 2022 Minutes.

Reports:

Library Manager: Holly updated us on recent library activities, including: the Lacey Loves to Read activity (hybrid in-person/virtual) with author Brandon Mull, in February; the grand opening of the Hawks Prairie Annex; staffing and library hours changes. Holly asked Rob and Jane to work with her to look at new display items for the Book Place.

Treasurer: Larry presented January and February sales reports. Book Place weekly sales are slowly increasing. The January Book Sale was delayed into February (water damage Community Room) but netted \$1,449, even with bargain pricing. Larry also stated that he would finish out the year as Treasurer, but that he would not continue past the end of year term. We will begin looking for a replacement.

Book Sales/Sorts: Next sale will be Friday, Saturday, April 1, 2. Set-up will be Thursday March 31. It was approved that we would continue with \$.50 cent hardbacks in Non-fiction, Fiction and Mystery. Also continue the "Fill a Bag for \$10". (Excluding Children's books and paperbacks).

Book Place: Carol Eagle, longtime Book Place coordinator, is stepping back. Rob Conor is taking her place. He is meeting with each daily volunteer group at the Book Place to learn what they do and better understand the job. Everyone is sharing information to make sure that the work Carol did is continued.

Publicity: New Publicity coordinator, Jessica Strozewski, was introduced and presented a formal Communications Plan. See New Business.

Membership/Hawks Prairie/Books for Babies: Mary reported on the exciting Hawks Prairie Annex opening and the FOLL "shelf". Library staff have agreed to put out our pre-priced books when the shelf needs filling in. Membership renewals continues to be low with 43 individual members so far this year. We need to create "perks" to enhance membership attractiveness. Mary stated she had given away 104 books with the Books for Babies project with Thurston County Health Dept. 70 in English, 36 in Spanish language.

New Business:

Communications Plan: Jessica Strozewski presented the Communications Plan she had developed for FOLL. The goals are to increase donations, increase FOLL membership and book sale attendance. She plans to create FOLL Facebook and Instagram pages to reach new audiences and has a plan to post weekly. She is looking to create links between FOLL and other city and community groups. She plans to re-design the FOLL logo, bookmark, and membership forms and increase distribution of book sale flyers and media notices for FOLL sales and activities. Overall, increase our presence in the community. The Board voted to endorse Jessica's plan.

Community Partners: John Grausam presented a list of community groups that we have supported by distributing the books which we are ready to pass along. He wanted to make sure we had an inclusive list.

Internet Sales: Becky Russell was nominated for the position of internet sales for FOLL, and approved. She is busy learning how to manage this project.

Pandemic Health Restrictions: John stated that when the State mask mandate for indoors changed on March 12, that TRL guidelines will be that you can wear a mask indoors if you choose, but it is not required. Some staff will continue to mask. No limits on indoor patrons. No requirement of vaccine status. We discussed as a group how we felt about masks at the FOLL activities and book sales. Loretta acknowledged that some volunteers would not be comfortable unmasked and crowded in the Community Room for book sale day. As a private community group we can impose our own restrictions. We agreed we would all wear masks for the safety of all our volunteers at all FOLL gatherings. For Sale day, we decided to create a sign asking patrons to mask out of respect for our volunteers, but we would NOT insist. We did agree to limit the sales attendees to 10 patrons at a time, with a 30- minute suggested shopping time, as we have been doing.

General discussion: It came up that library staff has seen Professional Booksellers buying out of donation cart. We want to discourage anyone from shopping out of the donation cart and will add a sign indicating “These Books Not for Sale” in hopes that will deter shoppers before we get to reap the value of the donated books.

Another suggestion regarding Book Sales was to possibly have some Saturday morning “sales” in the **back room only** and have the shelves filled with all our best books. No set-up required except for Cashier table and preparing back room with good books.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 12 noon, Community Room

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Collins, Secretary