

Friends of the Lacey Library

Board Meeting Minutes, Sept. 13, 2023

Call to Order: John Grausam, President

Members Present: Holly Paxson, Rob Conor, Karen Cuniff, Becky Russell, Larry Russell, Darcy Perry, Mary Gardner, Loretta Linstad, Dennis Powell, John Grausam, and Jane Collins.

Library Manager Report: Holly noted that the library got feedback that patrons were not happy about the Courtesy Collection being discontinued. Discussion ensued that we would find a Friends' volunteer who would manage the collection and we would continue to supply used paperbacks on a regular basis. The use of a large street banner over College Ave. was discussed to advertise our bi-monthly book sales. Dates for it to be displayed would need to be booked with the city for next year. Cost is approximately \$700 for the 25" banner. Holly shared she had asked that funding for an on-site storage building (approx. 10'x12') be built for Library, Friends, and City use to store excess inventory storage as part of her 2024 Budget. She also is requesting construction of several small Conference Rooms; a refresh in the Kids area; new lounge furniture in the Teen area; and, an additional camera. She also suggested we put aside some appropriate books for Black History Month (February '24) to go along with Community and Library celebration.

Vice President/Book Place: Rob praised the Book Place volunteers. Average Sales are now running \$2150-\$2197 per month. Annex sales are also increasing each month.

Treasurer: Larry presented July/August Finance Reports. He noted that we had a total balance of \$78K at the end of August and are within budget looking to the end of the year. Larry continues researching methods of taking non-cash payments at the Book Sales. He has looked at SQUARE, which charges no monthly fee, but .026% of each total, plus \$.10 per transaction. We would need to purchase a device (phone or tablet) to process sales. He will check with other Friend's groups to see what they are using. Perhaps Timberland IT could help.

Publicity: John reported for Jessica that she is looking into ways to publish the Friends History to the wider public.

Membership/Hawks Prairie/Books for Babies: Mary stated we acquired 14 new memberships at the Aug. Book Sale, bringing our annual membership number to 140, 60 of them are new. As sales have increased at Hawks Prairie, Mary recommended a larger money box is necessary to keep money safe until collected. Karen Cuniff and Becky Russell will be taking over Books for Babies outreach. This program, though Thurston County Social Services, has been in existence for 40-50 years. President John Grausam would like to strengthen the relationship with the County office who coordinates this program. Mary has begun to set aside books for older children to have available for siblings when baby visits are made. A motion was made to supplement the budget of Books for Babies by \$250 for this year ('23), which passed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned quickly due to a mis-communication about how long we had access to the room. The following topics were postponed until the next meeting. **Internet Sales, Website/Mailchimp and Book Sales/Book Sorts.**

Next meeting: November 8 at 12:30. (change in time)