

## Friends of the Library

January 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Biondo at 7:00 p.m. through a Zoom meeting. Members joining the meeting were Judy Ackermann, Donna Biondo, Annette Bland, Lisa Bromley, Kathleen Habermehl, Laura Hoguet, Mary Holtkamp, Crystal Snyder, Debbie Row, Diane Stechmesser, Eileen Traugher, and Vicki Wegner.

**Reading of the Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed from the Zoom Meeting held on October 26, 2020. Kathleen Habermehl made a motion to accept the minutes and Diane Stechmesser seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Three thank you notes were read: from the family of Ralph Buettner for a memorial of \$100.00 to Songs 4Soldiers, from the Human Support Service of Monroe County for a donation of \$1000.00 and from Life Network of Southern Illinois for the 753 items and \$135.00 donated to their Care Baskets and Needs for Kids Basket during the holiday season.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was presented and keeping with the budget. Vicki Wegner made a motion to approve the report and Judy Ackermann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Librarians' Report:** Annette Bland encouraged us to look at the new webpage that Crystal Snyder has created. It is very user friendly and has many different platforms. There are currently 13 spots available in the Non-Resident Library Card program. Since the Non-Resident Library Card program began in March 2019, it has helped 126 families get a library card. There have been no issues with COVID so far among staff and they have been following very close protocol. Annette ran numbers for circulation between 2019 and 2020 and there was only a 742 difference in the two years. Considering all that has happened in 2020 that's not too bad. The numbers were 6255 in 2019 compared to 5513 in 2020. Virtual programs and kits that families can check out have started to become popular choice for patrons.

Crystal Snyder showed us the Library Webpage and some of its features. She stated that Columbia patrons have saved 3 million dollars using the library last year. Crystal shared that 63 gingerbread houses were given to patrons in exchange for 350 donations to the Life Network but that the donations kept coming in. In total, 750 items and \$135.00 in cash was collected for this community project. The Winter Reading Program will end on February 27, 2021- there are 41 individuals registered to read for 830 minutes and 29 families who are registered to read 1000 pages. Fifty-nine food items were collected and donated to the Lutheran Church Food Bank for the October Food for Fines Program. Santa came to the Library for three Fridays in December and virtually read 22 letters and stories to kids. The Columbia Rotary wrote back letters to the kiddos- a great community project between two organizations. Approximately 80 cars came through for the Document Shred Event and 150 cars came through for the Trunk or Treat in October. Facebook events of the Library have had 5000 views. (A view counts as being

watched 3 seconds or more) There have been virtual local authors featured on the Webpage and Crystal is looking for more so please if you have suggestions let her know. Take Your Child to the Library will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2021. On February 17, 2021 an event to help poverty-stricken households with no technology receive PC's of some kind will take place at Turner Hall. This is for residents of Southern Illinois and is a working partnership with the Girl Scouts of America. Households need to fill out paper work to get this service and meet certain criteria.

**Old Business:** Crystal has talked to the City about erecting a Story Walk Project but she is also wanting to work with the Girl Scouts to see if there is interest with assisting with this project. More information will be presented at our next meeting since it is still in the planning stages.

**New Business:** Debbie Row stated that our new Sales Tax Exemption Certificate has arrived. Please be sure to get it before making purchases for various activities provided by the Friends. Helping Strays sent a letter asking for donations to help their animals, with the pandemic their organization has struggled. After a discussion, a motion was made by Kathleen Habermehl to donate \$500.00 to Helping Strays. Mary Holtkamp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** April 26, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Donna Biondo made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Eileen Traugher seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Row

Friends of the Library- Secretary