

Friends of the Library

October 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Biondo at 7:07 p.m. Members present were: Judy Ackerman, Donna Biondo, Annette Bland, Kelli Elmore, Barb Gerstenecker, Mary Holtkamp, Jack Hunt, Rebecca Hunt, Jan Korneta, JoAnne Odem, Michelle Perjak, Vicki Simpson, Emily Skowron, Crystal Snyder, Diane Stechmesser, Eileen Traugher, Vicki Wegner.

Reading of the Minutes: Minutes from the July, 24, 2023 meeting were read by substitute Secretary, Mary Holtkamp. Diane Stechmesser made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Judy Ackerman seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Mary Holtkamp read a Thank You note from Annette Bland to the Friends regarding the \$100.00 gift given during National Library Week to all Library staff.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Barb Gerstenecker, presented the Treasurer's Report dated 7/01/23 to 9/30/23. Dieterich Bank checking balance as of 9/30/23 was 92,840.00 which included a Treasury Bond Maturity payment deposit with interest totaling \$77, 343.75. This deposit transfer closed out the Treasury Bond account. A motion to move \$75,000.00 from checking to the Edward Jones Account was made by Vicki Wegner and seconded by Jack Hunt. Motion carried. Barb called attention to the Charles Schwab Account (Kutterer Education Fund) noting that 4% of the \$167,472.36 balance automatically, per policy, goes to the Library for programming at this time of year, \$6,698.89. Member, Emily Skowron asked about future plans for the money currently in all the accounts held by the Friends of the Library, since the amount is significant (\$656,464.91). A discussion ensued regarding expansion of the library and/or building a new library in the future. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Eileen Traugher and seconded by JoAnne Odem. Motion carried.

Librarian's Report: Annette Bland began her report by expressing the need for members present to consider being an officer of the Friends as elections are in January. The Columbia Public Library will participate in the Bright Night Christmas Parade on December 2nd. Donna Biondo procured a donation of 1,400 hot cocoa packets to be handed out along the parade route. Members will be needed to walk and/or ride in the parade. Debbie Row will send an email regarding this in the coming weeks. Annette announced that the Friends of the Library will be receiving a donation from Ameren of \$2,000.00. Our library was nominated by one or more Ameren workers due to the outstanding role the

Library plays in our community. The Library has also begun a partnership with the American Legion to help grow their 55+ Senior Club. Annette furnished the membership with a flyer advertising the Senior Club Thursday Lunch and Activities. Members were encouraged to share the flyers at church, work, or among friends. On average 18 - 20 seniors have been in attendance over the last couple of weeks. Annette brought up the issue of old House Tour paraphernalia cluttering up the storage area. Members present suggested the items be donated to Beth Luhr for her House Tour or moved along. Annette also asked the Friends about future book donations. Should the staff purge donations or should they be saved for the Friends? Members decided that the staff should purge books as they come in as donations. Circulation numbers were shared with 6,320 items being circulated in the month of September, 63 new patrons were added and program attendance clocked in at 340. Crystal Snyder shared with members the book that was written by participants of a Summer Reading book writing event. Members present found the book to be enchanting. Crystal shared Summer Reading participant totals, 1,114 children and adults registered and 599 participated. Crystal planned 104 events this summer with 3,461 children and adults taking part in those events. Summer sponsors (36) provided monetary sponsorships to the total of \$1,550 and sponsors covered or discounted to the Library \$2,854.08. Crystal presented an itemized expense report noting that the deficit shown will be made up when the City reimburses the Library for said expenses. Volunteers will be needed for Gingerbread House construction on November 4th, 9:30, 11:00, and 1:00. Debbie Row will send an email.

Old Business: Substitute Secretary, Mary Holtkamp read the second reading of the By-Laws as necessary, per the By-Laws, before a final vote. After listening to the reading President Donna Biondo called for a vote. Members in attendance unanimously approved the new By-Laws.

New Business: Members in attendance entered their names into a raffle for a S4S t-shirt, the winner, Eileen Traughber. The Christmas Bright Night Parade was discussed again. Debbie Row will email members with the specifics of where and when to meet. The Parade starts at 5:00 p.m. Emily Skowron offered that she may have access to a trailer for members to decorate and ride upon. Hot cocoa packets will be labeled and handed out along the parade route. Election of officers was discussed. Barb Gerstenecker offered to remain as Treasurer and Kathleen Habermehl will be President, leaving the positions of Secretary and Vice-President vacant.

Next Meeting: January 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Library.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Diane Stechmesser and seconded by Vicki Wegner at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Holtkamp, Substitute Secretary of the Friends of the Library