



Friends of Marcellus Free Library Meeting – 11:00 am

Friends of the Library Community Room – July 13, 2023

President Jackie Smith called the meeting to order at 11:05am

Attendance:

Present: Jackie Smith, President; Domenick Patti, Vice President; Michele Merwarth, Corresponding Secretary; Jim Shake, Treasurer; Diana Osborne, Recording Secretary; Karen Pollard, Director

Absent: Debbie Grousset, Deputy Treasurer; Audrey Kearney, Director

Reports:

Treasurer - Jim presented the final report for June 2023 and provided each director with the statements. Jim and Jackie plan to address quirks with Venmo over the summer so that it can be fully and easily utilized for purchases for the next book sale. Motioned to accept the reports, this was seconded, and carried.

New Board Members/Orientation – Jackie welcomed new board member Diana Osborne, Recording Secretary. Michele is switching positions to Corresponding Secretary this year. Everyone else is remaining in their existing roles. All board members present signed the conflict-of-interest form, with the exception of Debbie Grousset, who has recused herself from voting on financial matters. Audrey and Debbie will need to sign the conflict-of-interest form. Jackie is going to follow up with NYLA and ALA to update our officers list. She said that Diana will start getting emails from them. Jackie also said that we have a coupon code and she does not think we will have to pay for NYLA this year. She said that they are a great resource for information and have great newsletters.

Membership Roles – Mary Ellen Popick - will be running the Facebook page.

Membership Dues – Board members present renewed their memberships. Any board members without payment on hand can place their dues in Jim’s mailbox at the library.

Independent Financial Review – Board members agreed at the last meeting on using Dan Ross. Jackie left him a voicemail and is waiting for confirmation. Jackie gave Jim a paper copy of what

he will need. Jim said that if Dan is not able to do the review Lisa Blistone may be a good candidate as she has done it before. The financial review is due before the September meeting and we share it with the membership.

Volunteers – Jim inquired about volunteers for the Summer Reading Finale. We need approximately 4 volunteers on August 3rd from 3-6pm. Jackie said that she would email the volunteers that helped during the kickoff; Michele recommended we send the opportunity to all of the membership. All agreed.

Financial report – Jim presented the board with a report of Library expenditures. The board agreed to individually study the reports and discuss it when we reconvene during the board meeting next month.

Other Business – Michele purchased 500 stamps, which will last us not quite 2 years. She gave Jim the receipt for it. Michele offered to distribute them during the meeting; Jackie recommended that Michele hold on to them and can pass them out as board members need them. All directors agree. Michele said that we also have about 75 pens left and we can use them in any event or for advertising.

Secretary report – Due to the absence of Audrey Kearney, the board decided to approve July minutes until August. The board deferred approval of June minutes until the August meeting as well. All in favor.

Meeting Dates and Themes –

Dates: The board discussed dates for the upcoming year and all in favor of changing the schedule to 1:00pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. Dates are:
Sept 28, 2023; Oct 26, 2023; Nov 30, 2023; No meeting in Dec; Jan 25, 2024; Feb 22, 2024; Mar 28, 2024; Apr 18, 2024; May 23, 2024; June 27, 2024

Themes: Jackie asked the board for input on ideas for meetings. Karen said that last year Anne Farrow was a hit. She was a former teacher at Marcellus and provided a writing seminar that led members through the process of writing something. Jackie said that it was really fun and a big draw. Diana asked how many people usually attend the meetings and Jackie said there is an average of 15-20 people. Diana said that it might be fun if Anne would lead a creative writing exercise about the future of the library/what people would like to see the library look like in 5, 10, 20 years. Other ideas: Christmas Sock Swap, Cookie Swap, Marcellus Historian or local writer knowledgeable about the history of Marcellus (perhaps John Curtain), poet Jim Farfaglia.

Special Events: Karen said that Olde Home Days is always the first weekend in June - it might be May 31, June 1, 2, 2024 but she will confirm. The board agreed that the best dates for the fall book sale is October 20, 21, 22 to accommodate activities that families with children might have for Halloween the following weekend. On January 4th the meeting will be to take down decorations, and this will be at 9:30am.

Next meeting - August 10 @ 11am in the Friends Community Room. Dominick will not be present.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:29 pm.

Submitted by Diana Osborne, Recording Secretary