**D R A F T**

**Friends of the Fern Ridge Library**

**Minutes of the Quarterly Board/Member Meeting**

**January 14, 2023, 10 a.m.**

**Konnie Room and Zoom**

**Call to Order**: 10:08 a.m. by President Pat Baron

**Attendance and introductions:** Pat Baron (President), Karen Andersen (Vice President), Sharon Dowling (Treasurer), Elizabeth Elliott (Membership Chair), Heather Amrhein (Secretary), Laura Blankenship (Library Liaison), Ronda Shankle (Foundation Liaison), Jerri Moore (Library Board Representative), Cindy Straub (Member), Linda Gatton (Member), Linda Shankle (Member), Vicki Sourdry (Member), Susan Regnerus (Member), and Shirley Overed (Member).

Absent: None

**Review Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda.

**Correspondence:** The Library Foundation sent the Friends’ a thank you letter and a “Community Partnership Program” Certificate.

**Minutes of November, 2022 meeting -** (M/S Andersen/R. Shankle) to approve the Minutes as submitted.

**President’s Remarks**

* A document of the 2021-22 Friends’ highlights was shared; over the year, the Friends contributed to the library foundation’s project, awarded scholarships, stocked the library shelves with large print books, maintained the Crow little free library, donated Spanish language books to the Fern Ridge and Junction City School Districts, revised the membership brochure, and implemented an online payment function.
* The year ended with 44 members. Thank you to Elizabeth for her efforts as the Membership Chair.

**Financial**

**Current Financial Statement** – Sharon Dowling

* The Friends ended the calendar year well and accomplished a lot.
* 2022 ended with $7,609 in the checkbook, an increase of over $2,000 compared to 2021.
* Membership contributions decreased $245 in 2022; Pat shared that this may be because some people renew their memberships before the first of the year.
* Scholarship revenue increased in 2022 and higher scholarships were awarded. Pat shared that leftover scholarship funds will carry over to 2023 and that the Scholarship Committee is going to try harder to get scholarship applicants this year; ideas were shared to better promote the scholarships to the local school district and home school students. Sharon wondered whether we should be actively raising scholarship funds. Elizabeth mentioned that an option for a scholarship donation could be included on the Friends’ membership renewal form.
* (M/S Andersen/Elliott) to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Unanimously approved.

**Proposed Budget for 2023** – Sharon Dowling & Pat Baron

* The proposed budget for 2023 was shared with the group; it is similar to that of 2022, though there is a higher carryover than the previous year.
* (M/S Andersen/Dowling) to approve the proposed budget for 2023. Unanimously approved.

**Reports & Continuing Business**

**Library** – Laura Blankenship

* The library is installing new LED lighting, which will last longer and provide better quality and healthier illumination.
* The library is getting a new roof this year.
* COVID testing and vaccination is taking place on Wednesdays in the parking lot.
* AARP will be providing free tax aide at the library, regardless of age. Appointments are required and more information is available at the library front desk. Volunteers needed!
* Two new computers for patrons are being installed on the library floor.
* Thank you to the Friends for supporting the youth program calendar. Popular youth programs include Read to a Dog and Read to a Donkey/Duck/Goat/Rabbit. There is also now a separate adult program calendar. Both are available as printed copies, online, and via email newsletter. Please let Laura if you would like to be added to the email listserv.
* The library hosted the first “Death Cafe” in January and there will be another one in February. An Intro to Tai Chi class will take place in February.
* The library’s clerk Meli welcomed a new baby and will be taking time off for the next year; the library’s sub Wendy will step in to help during that time.

**Library Board** – Jerri Moore

* The Board welcomed a new member, Jennifer Chambers.
* The Board’s current focus is establishing new goals for the library.
* The art exhibits are going very well. The first showing of a new artist’s work opens with an Artist Reception to view the art, speak to the artist, and enjoy appetizers; all are invited to these free events.
* Several of the Board members will be attending a networking and informational conference at Sunriver in early February this year.

**Library Foundation** – Ronda Shankle

* At the Foundation’s November meeting, Ronda brought forth the Friends’ questions about the tablet/hotspot project. The Foundation hopes to purchase 10-15 tablets and hotspots, including the internet service fee. The actual money the Foundation raises will determine the exact number they can purchase.
* The Foundation’s next meeting is January 19 and there will be an updated report of the amount raised.
* The date for the 2023 Writers & Wine event has not yet been established.

**Grounds Committee** – Nora Weber & Karen Andersen

* The Grounds Committee is on hiatus because of the mud; weeding will likely start up again next month. The ditch in the front of the library is a rain swale and still needs some work once the weather improves.

**Membership** – Elizabeth Elliott

* So far, 8 families have renewed their membership for 2023.
* Pat shared that letters will be mailed out this coming week to everyone who has not yet renewed. Pat passed around printed renewal forms to the group; there is also a renewal option online.

**Book Sale –** Pat Baron

* The next book sale is scheduled for February 10 and 11. Volunteers needed!
* There will be another book sale in May 2023.
* A document providing an overview of the book sale revenue was shared and reviewed; everyday stand revenues have increased since the stand moved near the front door of the library and foot traffic has increased since prior years.
* Pat questioned the group whether book sale prices should increase. The group agreed that prices should increase a little (for example, children’s books at $0.50 each or a deal at three for $1; adult books at $2 each or a deal at three for $5).

**Scholarship** –Pat Baron

* The scholarships will be opening soon; more information will be in the next newsletter. Please help with promotion!

**Outreach** –Karen Andersen & Elizabeth Elliott

* The Outreach Committee is gearing up for National Library Week.
* Laura shared that there will be an Author Talk at the library on April 26th during National Library Week.

**New Business**

**Literacy Program** –Nora Weber

* Laura and Pat were approached about sponsoring a local literacy program in the community for children and adults, possibly with an English as a second language option; funding would be covered. It is in early stages of planning and more information will be shared as it becomes available. Heather shared that there may be the opportunity to partner with the Fern Ridge School District’s Family Resource Center, who are hiring a part-time staff to implement programs with families of children aged 0-6 to increase readiness for kindergarten.

**Future Meetings:**

* Friends’ quarterly meetings for 2023: April 22 at 10am, July 22 at 10am, and November 4 at 10am.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

**Minutes submitted by Heather Amrhein.**