**Friends of the Fern Ridge Library**

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

**November 4, 2023, 10 a.m.**

**Konnie Room**

**Call to Order**: 10:02 a.m. by President Pat Baron

**Attendance and Introductions:** Pat Baron (President), Cindy Straub (Vice President), Elizabeth Elliott (Membership Chair), Heather Amrhein (Secretary), Laura Blankenship (Library Liaison), Ronda Shankle (Member), Nora Weber (Member), Vicki Sourdry (Member), Helen Davis (Member), Deanna English (Member), Anne Shelton (Member), Susan Regnerus (Member), and Terri Lee (Member).

Absent: Jerri Moore (Library Board Representative) and Sharon Dowling (Treasurer).

Guests: Colin Rea (Library), Nan Muir (Library Foundation Board).and Tim Burns (Potential New Member).

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

**Correspondence:** There was no correspondence this quarter.

**President’s Remarks**

* No remarks today.

**Minutes of July 22, 2023 meeting** - Unanimously approved (M/S Straub/Lee).

**Financial**

**Current Financial Statement** – Pat Baron on Behalf of Sharon Dowling

* As indicated on the financial statement, the Friends recently paid a number of invoices to the library and brought in income from the book sales. We have a healthy balance and only a few expenses remaining. We will have about $4,000 in remaining funds and will need to decide how to spend them.
* (M/S Elliott/Straub) to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Unanimously approved.

**Expenditures** – Pat Baron and Colin Rea

* Colin presented several library projects that the Friends could financially contribute to: 1) A digital magazine subscription service called Flipster, where patrons could digitally access magazines that the library has digital access to. Paper magazine copies will continue to be available. 2) Digital access to graphic novels such as manga and anime (targeted for teens). Colin shared that both projects will likely launch in July 2024. The Friends discussed Colin’s ideas and agreed to decide how much to contribute during the January Friends meeting.
* Pat shared that the Friends traditionally contributes to the Foundation’s endowment fund and their annual project. The Foundation’s current project is to replace the library’s front doors. (M/S) Shankle/Elliott to contribute $500 to the Foundation’s library door replacement project. Unanimously approved.

**Reports & Continuing Business**

**Library** – Laura Blankenship

* Laura reported that the 50 hotspots, 25 chromebooks, and 25 ipads are available for patrons to check out, with thanks to the Library Foundation, the Friends of the Library, and AT&T. These items have been extremely popular!
* In the last few months, the Library participated in the Harvest Fest, hosted Art Receptions in the ArtSpace, and had various Book Club meetings, and many other activities.
* Nicole McLaws, the Youth Services Coordinator, is back at work after taking 6 weeks off due to a car accident. Welcome back!

**Library Board** – Jerri Moore

* No Library Board report, as Jerri is absent from the meeting.

**Library Foundation** – Nan Muir

* The Library Foundation is seeking a new board member who will serve as the liaison with the Friends. Duties include attending the monthly Foundation board meetings and contributing talents/abilities to any Foundations projects (e.g. Writers & Wine, Adopt a Shelf, and annual fundraising). If you are interested in this position, please let Pat Baron know or speak to David Floyd at 541-228-5560.
* Writers & Wine 2023 was a successful event and raised more funds than the previous year.

**Grounds Committee** – Nora Weber

* The Grounds Committee has participated in several recent work parties. The current project is to mitigate the invasives that are growing in the bioswale. The newest member of the Committee, Abby, is working with Nicole McLaws to engage youth in the projects. The Friends shared several ideas to involve more people in the Grounds Committee projects.
* Some of the native plants look a little rangy this time of year. With requested financial support from the Friends, the Committee would like to purchase two metal signs that say “Oregon Meadowscape” to put in the beds. (M/S) Elliott/Straub to contribute Friends funds to purchase two signs. Unanimously approved.

**Membership** – Elizabeth Elliott

* The Friends currently has 47 members.
* Pat shared that membership renewals for 2024 will begin soon.

**Book Sale –** Pat Baron

* The last book sale on October 27 & 28 raised about $900, which is back up to pre-pandemic numbers. Extra puzzles from the book sales are donated to the Senior Center and extra children’s books are donated to the Love Project.
* $72 was raised from book sales during the Harvest Festival.
* The next book sale is scheduled for February 16 & 17.
* If anyone has extra paper bags or small boxes to donate, please give them to Pat.

**Scholarship** –Pat Baron

* Nothing to report.

**Outreach & Events** –Elizabeth Elliott

* The Friends and the Library each had spaces at the Veneta Harvest Festival in September. Books and crafts were popular with festival attendees!

**New Business**

**Election Results** –Nora Weber

* Thank you to Nora Weber, Cindy Straub, and Helen Davis for serving on the Election Committee.
* The final election results are:
  + President: Pat Baron
  + Vice President: Cindy Straub
  + Secretary: Helen Davis
  + Treasurer: Sharon Dowling
* The official term starts January 1, 2024.

**Idea for Silent Auction of Art** –Deanna English

* Deanna presented the idea of a silent art auction to raise money. Several different approaches were discussed, including: having a stand-alone auction event, partnering (e.g. with the Foundation) on a shared event, or offering pieces at the library or other locations each month.
* Laura Blankenship suggested that a Committee could form to move this idea forward and work out the logistics. Deanna volunteered to present the idea to the Library Foundation, then discuss with Laura. Deanna will share progress with the Friends at the January meeting.

**Certificates of Appreciation** –Pat Baron

* Pat presented certificates of appreciation to three members: Karen Andersen, John Andersen and Vicki Sourdry.

**Next Friends’ Meeting**

* January 13 at 10 a.m. in the Konnie Room.

**News & Information Sharing**

* The volunteer library in Blue River was destroyed in the Holiday Farm fire in Sept. 2020. The library is currently operating in space at the McKenzie Community Center and recently broke ground for their new library building.
* The lighting of the tree by Veneta Elementary is November 30.
* The Veneta light parade is December 7.
* The book donations to the Love Project are very beneficial for their clients.
* Helen Davis is planning on starting a webpage for Fern Ridge happenings.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**Minutes submitted by Heather Amrhein.**