Minutes approved 4/20/24

**Friends of the Fern Ridge Library**

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

**January 27, 2024 10 a.m.**

**Konnie Room**

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

**Attendance and Introductions:** Pat Baron (President), Cindy Straub (Vice President), Helen Davis (Secretary), Sharon Dowling (Treasurer), Laura Blankenship (Library Liaison), Nora Weber (Member), Vicki Sourdry (Member), Sandy Cushing (Member), Anne Shelton (Foundation Liaison), Shirley Overed (Member), Susan Regnerus (Member), Elizabeth Elliot (Membership Chair)

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

**Correspondence:**

* There was a thank you for two donations from the Library Foundation for front doors. Certificates were given along with tags for “Adopt a Shelf” and a plaque recognizing the Friends as a community partner.
* A thank you was sent for an unrestricted donation of $500.
* President Pat Baron thanked the staff for staying open during the ice storm. The library became a gathering place and the hot spots were popular.

**Minutes of November 4th 2023 Meeting:** The minutes were unanimously approved

**Financial:**

 **Treasurer’s Report:**

* There is a healthy carry-over that the Friends need to try to get down. It needs to be spent on the library. The library will move ahead with digital subscriptions with Consortium and will move ahead with Manga/Anime for teens. It is likely that the friends will donate money and commit to an annual subscription.
* More money needs to be donated to the Endowment Fund for the long-term health of the library, possibly towards grounds related projects. The proposed budget is unchanged from 2023 and a donation to the Endowment Fund was okayed.

**Reports and Continuing Business**

**Laura Blankenship**

* Laura reported that the library was closed until Wednesday the week of the ice storm when it opened at 12:00 p.m. with a crew of two. Over 230 patrons came in for heat, electricity, and internet. This drives home how essential a service the library is.
* Laura reported Joanie showed up with a scrapbook containing photos of “Friends” from the past as well as other pictures not yet in albums. The “Friends” need to think about what to do with them.

**Library Board:** **Jerri Moore**

* No report as Jerri was absent from the meeting.

**Library Foundation: Anne Shelton**

* The Friends have been strong in fundraising for new doors but there is concern about how to be more public such as utilizing Helen Davis’ website https://www.thefaceoffernridge.com , and radio station KOCF. There is a possibility of coverage of library news in a possible new publication for either Creswell or Cottage Grove.

**Grounds: Nora Weber**

* A second oak tree is dying and there is talk of replacing the two deceased oak trees, one of which was just taken down, with a White Oak that would be known as a “Sandra Larson” tree approved by the board. Also, there may be a “Friends” tree of unknown species planted in the courtyard.
* The Grounds Committee is really focused on the bio- swale channeling water under the street and on the birches that are dying. There is cascara in the bioswale.
* Laura ordered signs so people will know that the Oregon meadowscape is supposed to look the way it does. She brought one out for the “Friends” to admire.
* The Grounds Committee would like to recruit more members and get help with weeding at work parties. Their next meeting is February 24th.

**Membership: Elizabeth Elliot**

* Renewals are due; there is an up-to-date list of who has and who has not renewed was available for perusal. Membership forms were handed out to those who needed them and there have been 11 renewals so far. Things are behind because of the storm.

**Book Sale: Pat**

* The next sale is coming up in three weeks and there will be a lot of romance and crime fiction available along with Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys, books about gardening. There has been a donation of older western books, audio books, and movies.
* On the same day, from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., there will be a “Big Read” of a graphic novel by Roz Chast that Laura will lead. A simultaneous conversation will be held all over Lane County. This is being sponsored by the Shelton-McMurphy House.

**Scholarship: Pat**

* This will begin after donors say if the money is available.

**Outreach: Laura**

* National Library Week is scheduled for April 7th – April 13th.
* The silent auction of recycled art has been tabled at this time.

**New Business:**

* Upcoming “Friends” meetings are scheduled for April 20th, July 27th, and November 9th.

**News and Information Sharing:**

* Pat showed off her coffee mug from Grateful Graffix, who update the dates and times on the Book Sale sign. They are good library supporters.
* Book donations at the Love Project are going well with even adults taking children’s books home to read.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

**Minutes submitted by Helen Davis**