

Friends of the Joliet Public Library – Minutes August 8, 2020

1. Meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.
2. Members Present: Dave Hlavac, Linda Aguilar, Frankie Overcash, Ted Overcash, Mallory Hewlett, Joe Furlan, Ron Likovic, Paul Rak, Ethel Garrett, Marilyn Bohner, Susan Rains.
3. Agenda Additions: none
4. Treasurer's Report:
Beginning balance as of 01/01/20 = \$30,390.68
Income = \$5,006.32
Expenses = \$3,108.28
Ending Balance as of 07/31/20 = \$32,288.72
Note: There were no ongoing sales while the buildings were closed.
Motion to approve the treasure's report was made by Susan; second by Ethel; all in favor.
5. Minutes: Motion to approve as amended made by Ethel; second: Dave; all in favor.
6. Library News:
 - Mallory Hewlett is the new Library Liaison to replace Denise Zielinski, who retired at the end of March.
 - Project Burnham – has been funded by a state grant and money the library had set aside in savings. It is not being funded through property taxes. Remodeling is expected to start in early 2021 and be completed in 2022. There are pictures of what the building will look like on the library website (jolietlibrary.org - click on the Building Renovation tab). The goal is to preserve the historic structure.
 - The staff is adjusting to the COVID requirements. Masks are available if patrons need them as they enter.
 - Homeless population has been housed in area hotels until Phase 5 so they are not needing the library as a daytime cooling center.
 - The library opens at 11 am, but we are allowed to come into the buildings to work in the Friends' room/area from 9 am until close. Let Mallory know if anyone wants to come in early.
 - Right now outside groups are not allowed to use the meeting rooms at either location. We have permission to use a meeting room from Catherine for our scheduled Friends' meetings.
 - Star Wars Day was cancelled this summer. It is unknown whether this event will be held in 2021 due to the construction and possible COVID restrictions.
7. Funding Request Reports and Thank-you notes:
 - Previously approved funding requests for this summer were cancelled (such as Star Wars Day and Summer Reading Program prizes).
 - No new funding requests at this time.

8. Committee Reports:

- Membership: Paul has the list of current members (210 total) in Google Contacts. We can start pushing information out as the library has events to promote. If we do not have a fall sale (which usually drives memberships and renewals), Paul will send reminders for people to pay their dues.
- Fundraising:
 - There was a fundraising event at Chipotle Mexican Grill this past Wednesday. They will give us 33% of whatever came in with our code provided we met the minimum. Their usual requirement is that we generate \$300 worth of business, but they just lowered it to \$150. They will send a check to the Friends within the next 30 days.
- Publicity: We need to know when events are happening regarding our members so we can put them on our Facebook page. The question was raised regarding who responds to the Friends Facebook page. Dave will ask LeAnn; she has overseen it in the past. Mallory has access to the Friends' webpage.

9. Old Business:

- Potential changes with Thrift. Dave would like to pursue moving away from scanning everything and boxing up the more valuable books to just putting everything in the bins. Thrift will give us 50% of the profit (after shipping charges – also split 50/50) on all of the books in the bins. Dave provided a handout showing that we would have made more money using this revised system for the books sent between January 1, 2019 and August 7, 2020. (We made \$6,474 using our current model and could have made \$9,974 under the proposed model.)
 - Suggested that we could still scan and save the higher priced books for a premium section at our regular sales, or email them if we find something extraordinary.
 - The downside of the new system is that we split the shipping costs and we have to be more careful with what goes into the bins – no magazines, damaged books, or encyclopedias.
 - If we go with the new model we will have to stay with it as no other library is using our current model of profit sharing with Thrift.
 - The Vote was unanimous to approve the new system.
- Another computer is coming from the library IT to the Friends' room downstairs.

10. New Business:

- No inside book sales will be allowed until Illinois moves to Phase 5. It is possible we could have an outdoor Tent Sale in the spring. The library has 10 X10 tents that could be used. Mallory will check into it.
- We are only going to be able to hold three meetings this year due to COVID restrictions. Our bylaws require that we meet four times per year. Motion to approve amending the requirement for this year to 3 meetings made by Linda; second by Joe; All in favor.

11. Adjourn time: 12:47 a.m. Motion to adjourn by Dave; second by Ethel; All in favor.