

Friends of the Joliet Public Library
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, February 17, 2024
Black Road Branch

1. Convene and Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call - Members Present: John Davis, Ann Marie Davis, Laurence Dent, Linda Aguilar, Frankie Overcash, Ted Overcash, Ron Likovic, Val Devine, Ethel Garrett, Marilyn Boehner, Joe Furlan, Paul Rak, Rita Miller, Julie Bauer, Judy Milde, Katie Fountaine, Dave Hlavac, Elaine Bottomley
3. Agenda Additions:
 - Sale dates have been changed since our last meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report: see handouts for itemization of 2023 income & expenses and the Thrift reports from December 2023 and January 2024.
Note: Ron is taking over the treasurer position so is working with Frankie during the transition.
Annual Report
Beginning balance as of 01/01/2023 = \$37,338.53
Income = \$19,986.42
Expenses = \$21,844.72
Balance as of 12/31/23 = \$35,480.22
 - Re: the report from Thrift, we made more this quarter because we were not charged for shipping costs. There is a delay in adding this to our account; it will be added to the next report.
 - Motion to approve treasurer's report was made by Laurence; second by Ethel; motion approved.
5. Read and Approve Minutes from November 18, 2023
 - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Joe; second by Marilyn; motion approved.
6. Library News: Val Devine, Liaison
 - The Friends used to have a cabinet upstairs; Joe (maintenance) will find a replacement for us.
 - Joe also asked if we need another rack for books at OSB. Yes, we need the extra storage space.
 - OSB – the librarians continue to weed books from the collection. There are many carts of books in the basement in the space outside of our room.
 - The single sided carts belong to the library, so we need to empty them first. The two-sided carts belong to the Friends. We have about 40 for our use.
 - The City of Joliet, ComEd, and the Department of Transportation are doing significant construction and street repairs downtown. Val is working with them to delay any construction that would involve closing Ottawa Street right in front of the library until after Star Wars Day.
 - The Library Administration is in the strategic planning phase for remodeling the Black Road Branch. Regarding the questions about the space where the Book & Bean Café used to be – they would like to continue using it as a community space.
 - Val will check into the request to have the Friends webpage updated with current sale dates, etc. and will ask Mallory to send info about our sales to Districts 86 and 204 for their community calendars each month.

7. Committee Reports:

- Membership:
 - Paul noted that at the Wild Apricot training meeting held 3 weeks ago, we discussed options for people to pay dues online. He is still exploring options for that.
 - More training on how to use the Wild Apricot database will be offered in the future. See Paul if you would like to be included in the training and/or if you would like to work on the membership committee.
 - Right now, Paul and Dave are full administrators; Frankie, Ron, Laurence, and Linda have read-only access; Val has newsletter access. John will be added as a full administrator.
 - Most of our membership renewals happen at the spring and fall sales, so we will likely get more members in May. Currently there are 72 paid members, and many more who have not yet paid to renew their membership.
- Publicity: No new updates. Mallory will send press releases and make posters/flyers for the May sale.

8. Old Business: The dates for the Spring Sale at BRB have been changed to May 3 – 5 so we can use all three rooms.

9. New Business:

- Funding Request for \$5000 from Val Devine for the Friends to be an Event Sponsor for Star Wars Day. The money will be used to pay rental fees for the Renaissance Center and the Joliet Area Historical Museum as well as volunteer artists catering.
 - Motion to approve made by Linda; second by Katie; motion approved.
- Funding Request for \$500 from Laura Yanchick in Youth Services to purchase supplies to raise baby chicks this spring as part of an annual educational program at both branches.
 - Motion to approve made by Ron; second by Laurence; motion approved.
- Funding Request for \$6,000 from Laura Yanchick in Youth Services for Summer Reading Program prizes and books. \$1800 of the \$6000 total will be taken from the Rita Miller bequest.
 - Motion to approve made by Judy; second by Katie; motion approved.
- We would like to get some Friends of the Library name tags that we can wear at the books sales to identify who is working. Val will check pricing, etc. It was noted that we used to have lanyards for name tags. They may be at BRB.
 - Motion to approve Val to purchase Friends name tags for use at book sales made by Laurence; second by Marilyn; motion approved.
- By-Laws Committee – Ron will chair this committee; Laurence and Katie volunteered to serve. Any other volunteers, please contact Ron. They will report on their work at the next meeting.
- We need to find outlets for the extra books we have in inventory that we cannot sell.
 - Val volunteers at the Center for Correctional Concerns. She takes some paperbacks there (about 1 bag per month).
 - Better World Books may still pay a small amount per pound for books. Val will check into it.
 - The Recycle/Book Swap event at Pilcher Park at the end of May. Elaine mentioned that this is a community event for residents so we will need to see if our group can participate. She will get us contact info, and if we can take boxes of books there, Val will ask if Joe could deliver them in a library van.
 - Does anyone have contacts at assisted living residences that may want books on CD? Please let us know.

- Fundraising: Book Sales
 - The dates for this year's sales are May 3-5, June 29, and October 18-20. All are at BRB this year due to the street closures and construction downtown.
 - We need to start marketing the May sale now. At the next meeting we will ask for volunteers to sign up to work. We may be able to get some high school students to volunteer as well.
 - We need new yard/outdoor signs. These should be redesigned with not as much information, so they are readable when people are driving/riding past.

10. Announcements:

- Laurence, Vice President and newer Friends member, provided a little information about himself in addition to passing our tokens of appreciation to members who have mentored him during his training.

11. Adjourn: 11:24 a.m.

- Motion to adjourn made by Ted; second by Ethel; motion approved.