

**Friends of the Joliet Public Library – Minutes
February 18, 2023**

1. Convene and Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Members Present: Dave Hlavac, Linda Aguilar, Frankie Overcash, Ron Likovic, Val Devine, Ethel Garrett, Marilyn Bohner, Joe Furlan, Paul Rak
3. Agenda Additions: Friends' Anniversary, online bookseller
4. Treasurer's Report: see handouts for reports of income and expenses.

Annual Report:

Beginning balance as of 01/01/2022 = \$53,526.28

Income = \$10,496.67

Expenses = \$26,684.42

Balance as of 12/31/2022 = \$37,338.53

Note: We made more from our ongoing sales than from Thrift last year.

Motion to approve last year's financial report was made by Ethel; second by Marilyn; motion approved.

Beginning balance as of 01/01/2023 = \$37,338.53

Income = \$859.58

Expenses = \$2350.04

Ending Balance as of 02/15/2023 = \$36,048.07

Motion to accept the current Treasurer's report was made by Ethel; second by Marilyn; motion approved.

5. Read and Approve Minutes from 11/19/22:
 - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Marilyn; second by Ethel; motion approved.
6. Library News: Val Devine, Liaison
 - Suggested that the Friends purchase freestanding display racks (kiosks) for the new sale area at OSB. They could have a poster area for information about the Friends with holders below for applications and brochures. Val showed us some options to consider.
 - Chicago Street Pub fundraiser will be rescheduled. Val will send us the new date.
 - The library is planning a special event called Violins of Hope from August 8 to September 7, 2023. There will be a display of 6 violins played by people in concentration camps during the Holocaust. The speaker at the August 8 kick-off will be the son of one of the people who played one of the violins. There will also be a documentary film playing on a TV screen in the room with the display.
 - Hispanic Heritage month will be mid-September to mid-October this year. There will be an exhibit featuring the works of artist Freida Kahlo.
 - The Joliet Public Library was the only library in Illinois to receive a grant for a Discovery Exoplanet exhibit from NASA. This exhibit is scheduled for December 2024 to February 2025. (see exoplanets.nasa.gov)
 - Star Wars Day in June will feature a new speaker doing a presentation at the library (more information coming later). There will be a funding request to help with the extra costs.

- Val was asked why the door to our room at OSB closest to the entrance door is locked now. She will check, but it is likely a security issue.

7. Committee Reports:

- Membership: Database – Most of the information from the old database has been put into the new database (Wild Apricot). This will allow us to send emails, have two-way communication, manage membership fees with online renewals, and send newsletters. It's a better option than the free databases. It could pay for itself by allowing membership fees to be paid online.
 - Dave would like to have a training session to demonstrate the new database prior to the April meeting. It was decided to have a training session on March 25th at 10 am at the OSB.
 - We pay by the number of members. Currently we have about 70 members – which includes our lifetime members and those who have paid their annual dues. The fee structure is: base price includes up to 100 members, the next tier (at a higher cost) is up to 250 members. Their rates are going up later this spring.
 - Contacts are different than members. Our Google database has about 230 contacts, but many of them are old data from as far back as 2013. Paul had to manually remove old data.
- Publicity:
 - Val gets our meeting minutes put on the website after they are approved at our meetings.
 - She suggested we get large poster-size frames that allow us to put different posters in to advertise our events and sales. She will get us options and prices prior to our next meeting.

8. Old Business:

- Thrift Books Update:
 - They are supposed to change their scanning system. Currently, they only accept about 50% of what we send them despite our volunteers using their scanning tool. The average price we get from them is less than \$1 per book. It was pointed out that we get more from our ongoing sales. Dave would like to keep going with Thrift for now and use Book Finder to scan. He wants to talk to the bosses and get enough information to make an informed decision. One of the questions we have for them is how long do they keep the books we send them?
 - It was suggested that we invite a representative from Thrift to talk to us at a future meeting. Dave will ask them, but he said they are often not available and do not return his calls.
- There may be an option to use a private online book seller. There was some discussion about what their process would be and what we would need (i.e. 50% of net profit). Dave was given contact information for a couple that does this from their home. He will follow up with them.
- Baker and Taylor Option – steps are as follows:
 1. We would scan our books and send the information to B & T.
 2. They get back to us within 24 hours and let us know the code (red or green) for each book.
 3. We box them up accordingly and mark the boxes as red or green. Red boxes go to recycling; green boxes are books for which they give the library credit.
 - Val will check on what happens when we have books with no ISBN numbers and also find out what the credit is for the green books.

9. New Business:

- Funding Requests:
 - Star Wars Day – Val Devine requested \$5000.00 for the Friends to be an event sponsor. Funds will be used for tent/table/chair rental, entertainment, sound, and volunteer/artist catering.

Motion to approve was made by Ron; second by Joe; motion approved.

- Laura Yanchick requested \$2200.00 to purchase prizes (as well as books from the book sales to use as prizes) for the Summer Reading Programs.

Motion to approve was made by Ron; second by Joe; motion approved.

- Laura Yanchick requested \$900 for a booth at Kidzfest that will feature a stiltwalker/juggler, and a juggling balls craft station.

Motion to approve was made by Ron; second by Joe; motion approved.

- Dave asked Val to find out what the library is doing with the old furniture stored in the attic. Could we have a Friends furniture sale?
- Discussion of Val's earlier suggestion to purchase kiosk stands to place near our sale shelves at both branches.
Motion to set aside \$800 to buy two kiosk stands for OSB and BRB was made by Ethel; second by Marilyn; motion approved. Dave will email us once Val gets specs on the options she showed us.
- Book Sale: April 29 – May 1st at Black Road
 - Thursday – set up
 - Friday evening 5 – 7 p.m. – members only – Val will be there so we can stay open after hours.
 - Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. regular sale
 - Sunday 1 – 3 p.m. – bag sale; clean-up 3 – 4 p.m.
- One day sale at OSB in June
- Fall sale will be Oct 20 – 22 at Black Road

10. Announcements: Friends Anniversary – the group was started on April 24, 1968. Can we think of something to do to commemorate our 55 years? We could have a poster with info about the Friends and what we've contributed to the library displayed at the April sale and at other events during the year.
11. Adjourn time: 11:50 a.m. Motion to adjourn made by Marilyn; second by Ethel; motion approved.