

Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library
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September 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Julie Ann Price – President	David Gonsalves
Liz Reyner – Treasurer	Mary Kolb
Diana Vance - Secretary	Lynne Shultis
Diana Valenchis - Adv. & Awareness Co-Chair	Betty Bellino
Ei Aung - Membership Co-Chair	Frank Coppa
Jill Dugas Hughes - Library Director	Alexis Mokler
Mari Harris - Library Board of Trustees President	Linda Kospa
Susan Bell - Library Liaison	

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Shay Harrison - Vice President
MaryAnn Baird - Membership Co-Chair

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June 18, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION: Ms. Reyner made a motion to accept the minutes.
2nd Ms. Shultis. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

- Ms. Reyner reported we are accruing approximately \$37 in interest per month, however, the interest will not be received until the end of the CD period. The CD was a great choice.
- The Treasurer’s Report contained some monies from the previous year that were received by the Friends this year. Discussions were held regarding reporting money in the year it was earned in the future. The Friends will receive more frequent payments from the Library collection desk going forward. There was discussion regarding the amount of money earned from the ongoing sales and Ebay sales.

MOTION: Ms. Kospa made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report ending September 10, 2024, in the amount of \$52,246.46.
2nd Mr. Gonsalves. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

LIBRARY REPORT:

- Ms. Dugas Hughes reported that the most recent Library Bookmark newsletter had been mailed, which contained information regarding the Capital Project and the Budget Vote.
- In regard to the Trustee election, there was only one candidate submission for two vacancies. Write-in votes during the election will be considered in filling the vacancies.
- The Library thanks the Friends for supporting a fantastic summer. There were a lot of great programs and people in the door.
- There will be a volunteer appreciation brunch held on Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 10:00-11:30.
- Ms. Dugas Hughes discussed the budget negotiations held with Schodack and the process.
- Ms. Dugas Hughes presented three grant requests for a total of \$13,000.
- Grant 1: Hoopla digital services. Hoopla is an online supplement to Libby with digital ebooks, audio books, and streaming services including music. It replaces the CD collection.
 - Total: \$7,000

MOTION: Mr. Gonsalves made a motion to approve the Hoopla grant for \$7,000.

2nd: Ms. Reyner. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Grant 2: Staff Professional Development Days and Appreciation. This includes the staff development day in October and supplements the regular budget, as well as small tokens of appreciation for staff.
 - Total: \$3,500

MOTION: Ms. Kolb made a motion to approve the Staff Professional Development Days and Appreciation grant for \$3,500.

2nd: Ms. Bellino. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

- Grant 3: Updates to the Library of Things Collection for Adults
 - Total: \$2,500

MOTION: Ms. Reyner made a motion to approve the Library of Things Collection for Adults grant for \$2,500.

2nd: Mr. Gonsalves. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT:

Ms. Harris thanked the Friends for getting the vote out and supporting the Trustees in their recruitment efforts.

PRESIDENT'S & VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board Vacancies

- We are beginning our Election process. The Call for Candidates is now available. All current board members who are up for re-election have indicated they would like to continue their service on the board.
- Both membership chairs will re-run and will have staggered terms.
- Ms. Bellino is interested in filling the Advocacy & Awareness Co-Chair vacancy.
- We still do not have anyone interested in filling the Fundraising Co-Chair position.
- The Nominating Committee will oversee the 2024 Election process. Ms. Price put forward Mary Kolb, Barbara Mootrey, and Linda Kospa.
- The elections will be held at the next meeting and new positions will take effect in January, 2025

MOTION: Ms. Shultis made a motion to accept the appointment of Mary Kolb, Barbara Mootrey, and Linda Kospa to serve as the Nominating Committee for the 2025 Friends elections.

2nd: Ms. Vance. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS REPORT:

- Ms. Valenchis reported that we are trying to get the word out to vote and will send reminders. We will then turn to promotion of the book sale.
- A Keela newsletter report indicates that 200 newsletters were delivered with a 59% open rate.
- Membership in general is decreasing, we will discuss a team effort to raise awareness.

FUNDRAISING/BOOK SALES:

Raffle Basket Summary

- In August we did Dog Man (93 tickets) and Lost (39 tickets) baskets. Sales were very slow.
- We are currently running Harry Potter and The Office. Sales are very strong for Harry Potter despite this being our 4th Harry Potter Basket.
- We are doing a Pirate-Themed and Stephen King baskets next.
- We will continue to observe the cost of creating the basket vs. the sales revenue generated.

Great Greenbush Quest

- Second year of the Quest will kick off on Community Day - September 14 and run through October 13.
- This year's theme will be pirates.

- We are collaborating with the Library on the logistics.
- All the details are in place and we expect to have a higher participation rate than last year.
- Celebration details are forthcoming awaiting input from the library staff and Jill.
- Prizes and supplies are on budget with the \$250 request which was approved at the last Friends meeting.

Fall Book Sale - October 4-6

- The Call for Volunteers has already gone out.
- We have a good amount of inventory in the shed.
- Maid Men has already been arranged for the sale. Bulk Books will pick up the discards.
- We will again have the Friends-only pre-sale evening on Thursday. Discussion was held regarding opening the sale to all Friends instead of highest tier Friends.
- Expect things to go smoothly.
- Discussion regarding the logistics as the Quest will overlap with the last day of the sale.

Friends Crafting Team

- The Crafting Team has done a fabulous job of creating book-page gifts for sale.
- We have wreaths, snowflakes, table-top trees, and ornaments to offer for sale starting November 1.
- Our fundraising goal is at least \$500. Price per item is still TBD however, we expect to sell out based on early feedback.
- Ms. Price thanked the members for their hard work: Diana Vance, Debi Filkins, Stacy Krug, Mary Kolb, Linda Kospa, David Gonsalves, Dinah Farrington, Barbara Mootrey, Colleen Donovan, and Margaret Dacey.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

- Ms. Aung discussed the membership tiers and changes from 2023. The total raised in 2024 was \$11,893 which is an increase from \$9,915 last year. Member totals decreased from 259 in 2023 to 223 in 2024. The average donation in 2024 was \$52, which was an increase from 2023.
- In regard to benefits, many tote bags and book bucks for the higher tier donations were never picked up. This indicates that the gifts were not a main motivation for individuals to donate. Discussion was held to remove tote bags and book bucks as membership gifts going forward as they were not impactful.

MOTION: Ms. Bellino made a motion to accept all members at the book sale presale and remove gifts for membership going forward.

2nd: Ms. Kospa. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

KEY DATES:

- September 14 - East Greenbush Community Day and the kick-off for the Greenbush Quest
- September 17 - Library Budget Vote and Trustee Elections.
- October 4-6 - Fall book sale
- October 13 - Quest Closing Event
- November 1 - Holiday Gifts go on sale
- November 9 - Volunteer Appreciation Day
- November 19 - Friends Board Meeting and Elections

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

Ms. Price made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM.

2nd Ms. Reyner. All in favor. None opposed. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Vance