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Minutes of Nov 15, 2016

Present: Suzanne Aiardo, Anne Burton, Pat Cronin, Betty Giugno, Tom Grant, Jill Dugas Hughes, Judith Maguire, Lynne Oudekerk, Michael Poost, Nan Twachtman, Kate Hafner

Minutes: Minutes of the June 21 regular meeting were approved, after Michael Poost's name was correctly spelled.

Treasurer's Report: Judith submitted the treasurer's report; the balance as of November 15, which is \$54,709.36

Membership/Database: We have 324 members so far for this year, of which 23 are new members and 30 re-joined. The total of donations/renewal at this time is \$9,980. We will appeal for year-end donations in the next newsletter. In additions, we will mail an appeal letter out to all current Friends.

Book Sale:

- Books are still coming in---sometimes so much it's hard to sort, and other times at a manageable rate.
- The Children's Book Sale earned \$5172.74, including the donations given for the books left after the sale.
- The Fall Adult Book Sale earned \$13,360.02, in spite of the terrible weather on the first night of the sale. This figure includes the final bill for the recycling bin.
- We don't know how well the plan to distribute numbers to make things less hectic on the first night work, because the weather caused most buyers to be in the hallway waiting for the sale to start.
- We were down volunteers, most notably on Sunday afternoon, when we had to restore the rooms to the condition we received them in. We request that a library staffer be available to extend the time if necessary in the future.
- Leo Kellogg did a great job in the shed, making the set-up much more efficient.
- Some volunteers took books to the Salvation Army and Rensselaer County Jail, and Linda Murphy prepared and distributed a number of leftover books to Grassroots Givers, a shelter in Menands and a church group.
- There will be a meeting November 23 to discuss possible changes to make the sales more efficient.
- The 2016 book sale dates have been scheduled:
 - The Spring Adult Book Sale is scheduled for May 4,5,6, and 7, with prep beginning on April 27.
 - The Children's Festival is scheduled for September 23 and 24, with prep beginning on Sept. 21
 - The Fall Adult Book Sale is Scheduled for November 2,3,4, and 5, with prep beginning on Oct. 26
- Thanks to all our volunteers, particularly Mary Davitt who fills the volunteer slots and the many others who gave freely of their time but are too numerous to mention here.

Publicity:

Lois Hazelton is organizing our pages in the next Library newsletter, including news of the sales.

Grant Requests:

A total of \$2750 was unanimously approved:

- \$550 for the Winter Classical Music performance featuring the Lark Strings Quintet on February 19.
- \$500 for the Day Before the Awards Film Festival on February 25, 2017. In 2017 the Library is planning custom seat cushions with the Film Festival logo on them. (In 2016 it was tee shirts.)
- \$1700 to purchase of reference materials, including the 2017 World Book Encyclopedia.

Advocacy:

Anne Burton will inform us of New York Library Advocacy Day activities which are held in March at the state Capitol. There will be a new state senator in charge of the senate library committee (Hugh Farley has retired.)

Library news:

- The Library is considering moving to accept credit cards, so that people can pay fines over \$5 easily.
- There is a heat pump in the large room which is not functioning and it is on the way to being replaced - half of this will be done by a grant & this is in the planning process. Future possibilities for grant applications include LED light fixtures. This year we replaced thermostats and control systems as well as some of the heat pumps.
- The Strategic Planning will hopefully be finished in the next two months. Department heads met in the past few weeks to continue work on the plan.
- The Library Staff held a Volunteer Appreciation Event on November 11 to thank all the volunteers who make many library activities possible. Leo Kellogg was honored for his work organizing the shed.

Friends News:

- The 2017 officers were elected unanimously. They are: Lynne Oudekerk as president, Suzanne Aiardo as vice-president, Kate Hafner as Secretary, Judith Maguire as Treasurer and Pat Cronin as Data Base Manager.
- We are thinking of switching our data base from Microsoft Access to a web based platform. There will be a meeting to discuss this on Saturday November 19 in the education room.
- A conflict of interest policy form was amended and a vote approving it being used for all officers and chairs of standing committees was approved and will be signed and used next year.
- The planning meeting for 2017 will be on Tues Jan 17 at 5:30 pm. There may be light fare due to the dinner hour. Final plans to follow.

Next Friends Meeting: February 21, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Submitted by Kate Hafner