**D R A F T**

**Friends of the Fern Ridge Library**

**Minutes of the Quarterly Board/Member Meeting**

**April 22, 2023, 10 a.m.**

**Konnie Room**

**Call to Order**: 10:00 a.m. by President Pat Baron

**Attendance and Introductions:** Pat Baron (President), Karen Andersen (Vice President), Sharon Dowling (Treasurer), Elizabeth Elliott (Membership Chair), Heather Amrhein (Secretary), Laura Blankenship (Library Liaison), Jerri Moore (Library Board Representative), Cindy Straub (Member), Vicki Sourdry (Member), Helen Davis (Member), and Barbara Paarmann (Member).

Absent: Ronda Shankle (Foundation Liaison)

Guests: David Floyd, Les Benoy, Anne Shelton (Foundation Board Members)

**Review Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence other than we have received report forms that we need to fill out.

**Minutes of Jan. 14 2022 meeting** - One correction was advised to be made to the minutes, replacing Konnie Room with Conference Room as the location of the meeting. Unanimously approved as amended (M/S Andersen/Elliott).

**President’s Remarks**

* The Library’s AT&T Connectivity Grant was approved; funds will be used to purchase some hotspots and tablets for patrons. Because of this funding, it is not necessary for the Friends to help fund the tablet/hotspot project. Colin Rea will circle back with Pat Baron on other ideas that the Friends’ may be able to financially support.
* In honor of the upcoming National Library Week, the Friends are buying some gifts for the Library staff to express our appreciation.
* Several copies of the Lane County Historian were shared, which include an article on the history of the Fern Ridge Library, written by Pat Baron.

**Financial**

**Current Financial Statement** – Sharon Dowling

* We started the year with a balance of $7,609.92.
* Book sales and memberships are both increasing.
* There was only one expense last quarter (Jan 1 - Mar 31), and we ended the quarter with a balance of $13,236.09.
* Pat Baron shared that we are undergoing our annual financial review with help from Jerri Moore.
* (M/S Andersen/Elliott) to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Unanimously approved.

**Reports & Continuing Business**

**Library** – Laura Blankenship

* In celebration of the upcoming National Library Week, Laura shared bookmarks with the group, as well as a scavenger hunt for grown-ups.
* Colin wrote a haiku library report that Laura read. Highlights include: there are now solar panels on the Library’s roof and the Library is seeing more and more people come into the Library.

**Library Board** – Jerri Moore

* Four of the Board members attended a networking and informational conference (Special Districts Association of Oregon Conference) at Sunriver, Oregon in February. A helpful piece of information discussed during the conference was that the limit for audits increased to $1 million in actual expenditures, which is a big benefit for small special districts in Oregon.
* Three Board members are running for re-election this May and there are four names on the ballot. Please vote!
* The Board is developing strategies to address parking issues around the Library. This is a long term project so we will see where it goes, but it would be a wonderful addition to the Library, and open the door to possible building expansion.
* Pat Baron wondered whether the Library will be attending the Farmer’s Market this season with the tricycle. Laura Blankenship shared that the Farmer’s Market will be at a new location this year (on the grassy knoll by Cup of Joe), and they are discussing whether it is an accessible location to ride the tricycle.

**Grounds Committee** – Karen Andersen

* There recently was a work party and some of the plants were sadly weed-wacked; Karen is hopeful that a lot of the plants that had been planted will come back. It is also normal that several plants die each year and there are plans to replace the Manzanita. Signs were put out to hand weed only.

**Membership** – Elizabeth Elliott

* Almost all the previous members renewed their membership, and there are also several new members!
* Pat brought up the issue that several people might think they are already Friends of the Library, when they actually are not. The group agreed that this is likely a communication issue, and it might be helpful to add more information to the brochure.

**Book Sale –** Pat Baron

* The next book sale is scheduled for May 19 & 20.
* There were many donations of Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Military Fiction, and Adventure Fiction, so these will be added as categories at the May sale.
* Recent and upcoming themes on the Everyday Sale Stand include: Women’s History Month, humor (April Fool’s Day), poetry (National Poetry Month), Earth Day, pets, National Library Week, and Star Wars (May 4th).
* The large print books at the Senior Center were recently restocked.
* Pat may need some help (about 2 hours worth) with passing out flyers for the upcoming Book Sale and she will put out a call for help. Cindy Staub mentioned that it may be helpful to include the book prices on future flyers, since prices increased slightly.

**Scholarship** –Pat Baron

* This year there were 11 scholarship applicants and 6 were selected as recipients.
* Pat thanked those that served on the Scholarship Committee, the two donors, and the Library staff that helped get the word out to students.

**Outreach** –Karen Andersen & Elizabeth Elliott

* National Library Week is April 23-29, 2023.
* National Friends of Libraries Week is October 15-21, 2023.

**FRL Foundation Report & Presentation** –David Floyd, Les Benoy, & Anne Shelton

* David Floyd, the Foundation Board President, shared an annual report to the Friends of the Library. The report reviewed their activities during 2022 and contributions made to support the Library from the fundraising and other projects of the Foundation.
* The 2022 activities by the Foundation in support of the Library included: a fundraising project to replace DVD shelving, a fundraising project for mobile hotspots and tablets along with internet access, and the Fern Ridge Library Foundation Endowment Fund.
* The 2022 projects for outreach and community engagement included: Reconnect with Your Library and Adopt-a-Shelf Event, the annual newsletter, and Writers & Wine. The 2023 Writers & Wine event will take place on Sunday, October 15 from 3:30-6:00 p.m. Even though the annual Writers & Wine event does not bring in much money to the Foundation, it does bring positive attention and publicity to the Foundation and the Library and builds the donor base.

**Next Friends’ Meeting**

* July 22 at 10 a.m. in the Konnie Room.

**News & Information Sharing**

* Concert at the Applegate Regional Theater on April 22 at 7:00 p.m. for $5.
* The Youth and Adult Library Event Calendars are available for the month of May.
* Summer Reading Program “Find Your Voice” begins in June.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**Minutes submitted by Heather Amrhein.**