

Minutes
Friends of Rockport Publix Library Board Meeting
March 11, 2016

Board Members Present: Ann Filley, Judy Lindahl, Nelda McClellan, Kathleen Meil, Pat Messler, Carol Robinson. Librarian Ben Blackmon; Guest: Bill Chapman

Call to Order: 8:35 am

Secretary's Report: February minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Ann passed out the February report, including the Bank account summary, a list of transactions, the FRPL bank statement and the budget. The ending balance for February was \$17,567. Friends paid \$183 for propane to heat the sorting house, and paid Alexis Paka Photography for the pictures of the old and new library. Ann recommended we increase the budget to reflect an increase in advertising costs from \$150 to \$368, and that we add a new budget line (Lib. Moving Expenses) for \$100 under expenses. The board approved those recommendations. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Library Director's Report: Ben reported that two recent public events held at the new library revealed shortcomings inherent in the space. The narrowness of the Marine and Teen Rooms, and the fact that he cannot turn off overhead lights in different rooms, makes it very hard to show films or meet with more than 8 people. Due to these issues, the Library will have to use the Opera House more often for small programs. We discussed using a sign board to notify the public when a program will take place. Also discussed was the idea of acknowledging business members whenever we hold a program.

Ben reported on the activities of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee; the presentations of the architectural firms March 16 and 17, the March 23 meeting to discuss those, and the Select Board meeting March 24 to select a firm. All are open to the public and streamed on-line.

Finally, the Library will sponsor a concert on March 17 at the Opera House with Skip Gorman playing western music with Irish roots.

Old Business

2016 Book Sale - We will overlap with the Camden Library book sale on July 16 & 17. Pat has talked with Ken Gross and we plan to use "Book Bucks" to encourage buyers to go to each other's sale. We will do our own press releases, but we might call it a "Big Bibliophile Weekend". Pat was encouraged to continue to negotiate with the Camden group. We agreed we will keep the same hours we had last year. (8am-3pm)

Pat reported Priscilla Wood and Peter Chamberlain do not want to take on special responsibilities at the book sale, although they plan to help set up and sell. We discussed how the board could manage the sale if each member was in charge for short periods of time, like a Captain for the Day. Ann volunteered to head up Publicity and Kathleen agreed to help her.

Judy Lindahl agreed to be in charge of volunteer recruitment, and to provide sign-up sheets by mid-May. She noted Penny Ray and Nina Galante have been loyal volunteers

and wondered if they might want to join our board. Volunteers for the Tuesday-Wednesday set-up is critical : we need to greet them and give them jobs. Pat and Nelda agreed to check the table stands and genre signs to see if we need new ones. Those are stored at the sorting house. Pat and Nelda also volunteered to help Ben inventory what Friends' stuff remains at the old library.

Kathleen wondered if volunteers might want to help unpack books from 5-8 pm after the day volunteers had gone home. She volunteered to be a shift captain for one evening.

Carol agreed to work with Pat on procuring tables for one more year. Kathleen volunteered to help with that. We will need 100 tables. There will not be a bake sale this year. Pat has confirmed with MRC the dates (July 12-17) that we will rent their space, and Craig was pleased to announce MRC has a new barrier to separate our space from the rest of the ice rink. Ann suggested we find large fans to help circulate air in the rink, since it gets very hot there. We discussed having a comfort station for volunteers to take a break and providing ice water.

Membership – Nelda will meet with Chris and Pat to plan the spring membership campaign. Ann asked how can we make the Friends members feel special if the only tangible benefit is getting into the book sale on Thursday night. We brainstormed giving them stickers (I love my Library), book bags, decals for business members (Proud Sponsor of the Rockport Library), or coasters, or buttons . Kathleen and Judy agreed to research these ideas. Also, a FRPLK bookmark handed out at the desk would be good.

Spring Newsletter - We want it out by mid-May, so all articles must be sent to Ben by May 1st. Remind the Library Committee Chair, Cate Monroe. Also AHLPC.

New Business

Library Fundraiser - on July 23 a concert by the State Street Traditional Jazz Band at the opera House. Ken McKinley has arranged this and will ask the Rockport Legacy board to handle logistics. Pat volunteered Friends to provide a supper for 12 before the concert. Nelda agreed to help with that. One suggestion was that Friends have a membership table at this event. However, since it comes so close to the book sale, we have not committed. Ben said we can feel free to host other fund raisers at the Opera House.

Next Meeting: April 22 at 8:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Chapman, acting scribe