

Friends of Rockport Public Library Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2016 Marine Room at Rockport Public Library

Present: Jo Desmond, Ann Filley, Judy Lindahl, Kathleen Meil, Pat Messler, Chris Sady and Ben Blackmon, Library Director

Absent: Nelda McClellan and Carol Robinson **Guests:** Bill Chapman and Jan Rosenbaum

Meeting called to order at 8:35 AM.

New Board Member - Jo Desmond was voted in as a new member of the FRPL board.

Secretary's report – Minutes of July 22 meeting accepted.

Treasurer's report – Ann presented July Treasurer's report. Balance of \$32,903. Report reviewed and accepted.

Library Director's Report – Ben gave August updates. Marine Room recently redesigned so it is more spacious for events and presentations. Recent events included a ukulele event and a Story Walk that was moved to the library because of heat. Story Walk is partnership with a nonprofit to have story pages at the Erickson Field walking area. There was a monthly genealogy meeting. Plans to have a *How to Self Publish* presentation, a Banned Book presentation and the first Camden Conference event, scheduled for September 29, about Native Americans and Voting Rights.

Ben said circulation was busier in August than July. Overall, the library had 12% fewer visitors this year than last year. Last year the library had 53,000 visitors.

Ad Hoc Committee Update – Ann Filley and Jan Rosenbaum

Pat introduced Jan Rosenbaum, chair of the Ad Hoc Library Planning Committee. Reed and Co. has finished designing the new library. More work will come when details need to occur.

Now the Committee's work is to inform Rockport residents about the library plans and get the word out to vote for the library bond on November 8. If the bond is approved, the Ad Hoc Committee's work will be done, and a Building Committee will be formed for the next phase.

Jan has met with Narativ, a public relations and marketing company in Rockport. They have discussed materials needed to promote the library bond. This would include buttons, press releases, palm cards, testimonials, use of Facebook, (with daily reminders and a video, produced by Brendan Riordan) and two mailings. The mailings would go to 2000 residences in Rockport (\$620 in postage for each mailing).

Other plans:

- Knock on doors to talk with residents– looking for volunteers to help
- Small group presentations in homes
- Meetings for the public like the July 20th one

Budget estimate for the public relations/informational campaign is \$3000.
Jan Rosenbaum, representing the Ad Hoc Committee, requested that FRPL consider giving \$3000 for the public relations/informational campaign for the new library bond.

Discussion: Discussed FRPL's current neutrality statement regarding the new library. Some thought it should be discarded: other discussion suggested we continue to stay neutral until vote is over.

Bill Chapman noted that there will be a referendum question for a new building for the Mid Coast School of Technology on the November 8 ballot.

Action: FRPL voted to take a position in favor of the proposed library bond referendum, for the design and construction of new library at 1 Limerock St. (Wording of the referendum to be finalized on September 8.) Vote: 5:1

It was agreed that it is appropriate for the Friends to support the effort to build a new library, in agreement with the Select Board, Library Committee and the Ad Hoc Library Planning Committee.

Action: FRPL approved the Ad Hoc Committee request for funds of up to \$3000 for a public relations/informational campaign with a goal to pass the library bond. Vote: 5:1

Old Business

Membership Campaign – We now have 17 business members.

Storage for books – We are looking for a storage facility for books.

Insurance for Friends – Cale Pickford can come to Sept. meeting. Pat will contact him.

Seafaring Series – Scheduled speakers are: Linda Greenlaw (Oct 27) and Tom and Jane Babbitt (Oct 6) and Peter Ralston (Oct 20). Need speaker for Oct. 13.

People check on possibilities and share by email.

Chris – will check with Seacoast Mission. Jo – will check with Abby Kidder

New Business

Friends Gift to the Library – Decided to give \$16,000 to the library.

Action: FRPL approved an \$8,000 gift to the Library Building Fund and an \$8000 gift to the Library. Vote: 6:0

Fall Newsletter: Will need to be published in time to promote the Seafaring Series. We will work closely with Ben to publish by end of September.

Nominating Committee - did not discuss at this meeting. Will discuss at next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, Sept 16 at 8:30 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Sady, Secretary