

Friends of Cascade Park Library Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024 - **FINAL**

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by president Sandy Granich in the library's family room. Those present were: Ruth Chamberlin, Jennifer Giltrop (library director), Sandy Granich, Jaynee Haygood, Jean Kent, Joan Lamy, Linda McHan, Julie Nakao, Rachael Ries (library staff), Stephanie Sanchez, and Melissa Webb. Leah Samuels attended briefly online.

2. Minutes of February 15, 2024 meeting were approved as written.

3. Treasurer's report for February 2024 was presented by co-treasurer Stephanie Sanchez. Comment by Jennifer Giltrop - In the past the library system has had 5 full-time employees (FTE) in the finance department but lately has been working with two. New finance department head starts next week. Soon they will be catching up on invoices.

4. Book Store

- A. Linda reported 186 volunteer hours for February. She has 16 volunteers.
- B. Same as last month, donations continue to be slow, especially novels and children's books.
- C. Suggestion – book donations, quality/quantity for a Friends Fair topic.
- D. Starting April 1, the Foundation will resume accepting book donations.
- E. Rachael will post on Cascade Park Community Library's Facebook page the need for additional book donations.

5. Rachael Ries - Librarian's Report

- A. Resource report #2, Novelist Plus and Novelist Plus K-8, also For the Love of Toad Hall, -book store in Rockport, Massachusetts. Brick and Mortar closed but Facebook page continues.
- B. Bookmark contest winners' drawings for CP library passed around. Will be entered in district contest.
- C. Revolutionary Reads – excellent branch discussion ,15 people in attendance, panel discussion Apr. 17.
- D. Commented on various displays in library.
- E. Need volunteers, 3/30 for all-age clothing swap; come at 1 or 1:30 to help set up, stay through cleanup.
- F. Harp circle – last Friday of each month; 10 to 12 people show up to play.
- G. Simple Wills class, 3/27, 3:00 p.m. from the state law librarian.
- H. The Heritage Douglas fir tree in the courtyard will be dedicated on April 20 from 2:00 to 4. Jaynee will speak.
- I. Apr. 27, new Woodland library fund-raiser, from 5 – 8, may dress up or not to attend.

6. V. President – Julie Nakao

- A. In charge of membership – what do members 'get'? Purpose of membership? We have 79 members, 68 of those are 'lifetime' members. The membership year is from July 1 to June 30. She'll be sending out 'renewals' to 14 people in May.
- B. Friends' website QR code? Rachel spoke with Tak, FVRL Communications director. After clarifying that the QR code is not intended to be used on website(s) but on printed materials, Rick requested that the Foundation provide the QR code to the Friends because they are already paying for services that include creating QR Codes. Julie already updated the signs on the library's doors to announce the monthly Friend's meeting with a QR code generated from a (free) program available on the internet. She said it would be no problem to reprint the signs with a QR code provided by the Foundation.
- C. Rachael will work to get 'eye-catching' link to Friends group website from the library's Facebook site.

7. Bylaws Revision – Melissa Webb

- A. Committee has met 3 times so far and have made major revisions.
- B. Will send out copies before next meeting so people can look new bylaws over before voting to accept/reject.

8. Director of FVRL – Jennifer Giltrop

- A. We each introduced ourselves and stated connection to library.
- B. She's from MI, 27 years in library work.
- C. FVRL has its own taxing authority so we don't have to compete with police and fire.
- D. 4200 sq. mile - large district.
- E. Met with other library directors in the state (on 2/14).
- F. The 7-member library board is her boss (2 from City of Vancouver (CoV), 3 from Clark County, 1 from Skamania County and 1 from Klickitat County).
- G. Meetings are 3rd Monday of month, lots of public testimony occurs.
- H. Are working on Strategic Plan – 3-5 years of direction.
- I. Working on Facilities Master Plan (two libraries in the 'making' – Woodland should open in the fall and Washougal has a \$5M funding gap).
- J. There are long-term funding challenges. Would a levy-lid-lift pass?
- K. There are a lot of staff openings/changes. Individual library FTE allocations must match use which is not necessarily the case right now. Visitation and usage of the system has returned to pre-pandemic use levels even while only 26% of the population has a library card. Sept. is "National Library Card-Holder" month.
- L. Is building a good relationship with the Foundation.
- M. Library gets tax receipts twice a year so must budget carefully.

- N. Question: How can the Friends group help?
1. Advocate for libraries with state elected officials,
 2. Bring in younger users,
 3. Inform the public that libraries have changed tremendously.

9. Friends Fair – April 13 9:15 – 1:00

- A. Attendees: Jaynee, Ruth, Stephanie, Melissa, and Rachael. Jaynee will represent us and will speak for three minutes on what we're doing.
- B. Bring three questions (we can't count);
- 1) If the Friends were to offer an on-line payment option, how can the Foundation assist with the process?
 - 2) How other Friends groups do memberships/supporters; e.g. attract new members and maintain membership?
 - 3) How to create a network to organize pro-library communications with state legislators.
 - 4) How to create a network to communicate book donation surplus and needs among Friends groups?

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. Next meeting THURSDAY April 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

minutes by Jean Kent