

SOLDOTNA LIBRARY FRIENDS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023, at 10:15 am

Attendance: Joan Merrick (President), Pam Joslin (Treasurer), Barbara Olson (Secretary), Vicki Johnston-Freese (Book Sales), Heather Rausch, Mary Lou Wilcox

Absent: Michelle Blackwell (Vice President), Wendi Dutcher

Guests: Rachel Nash (Librarian), Jane Gabler, Jane Fuerstenau, Romi Haseo (Potential Board Members)

- 1) **Call to order at 10:15 am:** Joan Merrick, noting that a quorum is present.
- 2) **Approval of agenda:** Addition of Seed Library under New Business, agenda approved.
- 3) **Approval of minutes:** Pam moved, Vicki seconded, all the following minutes were approved.
 - January 11, 2023, Annual Meeting
 - January 11, 2023, Monthly Meeting
 - February 8, 2023, Monthly Meeting
 - March 8, 2023, Monthly Meeting

Each person at the meeting was asked to introduce themselves as several people had never met.

- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** Pam
 - The month of March began with \$34,549.67 in the bank.
 - The March book sale totaled \$714.00. Other revenue from the bookshelf and donation boxes, memberships, and art sale brought total revenue to \$1,472.41.
 - A \$100 check was received from Lora Haglund for the Seed Library.
 - Expenses included \$512 in sewing supplies, \$257.75 for Pick.Click.Give application, and smaller expenses for fees, Facebook boosts, and annual domain fee bringing total expenses to \$804.65.
 - Joanne Fabrics gave us an additional 20% discount on sewing supplies.
 - End of month cash balance in bank and on hand totaled \$35,337.43.
 - Received a preliminary list of Pick.Click.Give pledges totaling \$4,050.
 - Discussed that there are many people who would like to donate fabric to the sewing program.
- 5) **Book Sale Report:** Vicki
 - We had 114 people attend the book sale held on March 30 bringing in \$714. Four patrons brought their canvas book bags to refill for \$5. A large original painting sold for \$300. No book sale coupons have been used yet. Each shopper received a flyer advertising April's book sale. We are receiving a lot of donations. Small bags can be left at the circulation desk. Some bags have been dropped off at the back doors which should be discouraged. Donations should not be placed in the book drop. Vicki can arrange to meet people at the back door to receive donations.
 - Romi reminded us of the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program as a source of donations for the Soldotna Library Friends. This will be mentioned in the next newsletter. Michelle could place this on Facebook.
- 6) **Librarian's Report:** Rachel
 - Rachel made a presentation to Soldotna Rotary which was well attended. The Superintendent and Borough Mayor attended showing interest in how many people outside the city limits are served and interest in school preparedness programs.

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- New programs include:
 - First Friday Cool Crafts – school preparedness program for ages 2-5 (over 50 came to first one)
 - Monthly Stem Program – ages 6 -10
 - Tween Scene – ages 10-14
 - Teen Lounge – ages 13-18
- “Come Together Now” theme for the Summer Reading Program is being planned.
- Library cards from across the United States are being collected by Kim. A giant map will be posted with the library cards Kim has collected.
- The library received a \$10,000 donation. Rachel is working with a company to get two family workstations (playpen connected to a computer desk). This will be appropriated through the City Council and acknowledged at that point.
- They are weeding through CD’s, adult fiction, and large type books. These will be taken to the book sale room for the Friends to sell.
- Ryanna Thurman, our assistant librarian will be leaving her job May 2. She will be moving out of state. Rachel is interviewing applicants for her position.
- Kim (Programming Coordinator) will take over the sewing program and the seed library.
- Rachel needs funding for 1KBK book bags and partial funding for summer reading. These items have been budgeted and she will email Pam to receive this funding.
- Discussion on streamlining the funding process rather than going through the City Council to appropriate funds (see New Business).

7) Old Business

- Board of Directors Open Seats: Heather expects to remain in Alaska so she would like to continue to serve on the board. Wendi and Michelle would like to resign as soon as others are found to fill their seats. According to our proposed Bylaws, we can have up to nine board members. We can accept 3 more members to the board. Jane Gabler, Jane Fuerstenau, and Romi Haseo would all like to serve on the board. Pam moved; Vicki seconded that we approve the three new board members. All in favor. With 9 board members, a quorum will be 5 people in attendance. Welcome to our new board members!
 - Seat G – Term 2021-2023 Jane Gabler (to replace Wendi Dutcher)
 - Seat H – Term 2022-2024 Romi Haseo (to replace Michelle Blackwell)
 - Seat I - Term 2023-2025 Jane Fuerstenau (new seat)
- Michelle will thankfully continue to do our social media postings.
- Joan will contact Michelle and Wendi to let them know their seats have been filled and to thank them for serving.
- Bylaws Committee: Discussion of recommendations:
 - At our next meeting, Pam will go over the changes to the Bylaws that have been proposed, answer questions, and decide if we need to do another full presentation before voting.
- Volunteer Appreciation Event: Postponed until fall. Rachel reminded us that more than two Library Advisory Board members cannot gather unless the public is invited to the event per the Open Meetings Act. Joan cannot attend on Tuesday or Thursday.

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- Summer Reading Program Banner:
 - To help the library set a record for Summer Reading Program participation (1,075 in 2022), Barbara moved that we fund \$400 to purchase two banners to hang back-to-back outside the library to advertise the program. The design and ordering tasks will be turned over to Rachel and her staff. Vote was unanimous. Rachel asked that this be turned over to Leslie.

8) New Business

- Library Advisory Board Meeting April 17 at 5:15 pm has been cancelled as there was no new business. Jane Fuerstenau volunteered to attend the meeting on July 17 at 5:15 pm.
- Seed Library:
 - During March, there was a request that the Friends fund \$30 to ship seeds that were available from the Lower 48. Pam polled the board members who all agreed to fund this.
 - A new funding request dated April 10, 2023 has been made for \$400 to purchase bulk seeds. The Seed Library was originally set up by Lora Haglund. She is no longer able to maintain this project will turn over funds to the Friends. This funding request will stock the Seed Library for the upcoming growing season. Ideally the Seed Library would be self-sustaining where people collect seeds and donate them back. However, collecting seeds is more difficult than just sharing purchased seeds. Kim has a lot of ideas on turning this into more of a community seed library.
 - Pam reported that Lora placed a \$100 check in our donation box. We might be getting a \$200 Micro Grant from the Central Peninsula Garden Club per their April 2023 newsletter. Rachel said Lora pulled out of the Seed Library project last December or January.
 - Pam moved that we fund \$400 for bulk seed purchase even though this was not in our budget. Vicki seconded. All in favor.
- Streamlining Funding of Smaller Requests:
 - Pam wants us to think about setting a flat dollar amount (like a petty cash fund) for use by the library when smaller needs arise. Rachel and her staff could utilize these funds without bringing it before the board. Rachel gave an example of the State Library Board. Rachel suggested \$2,000 per year for use with the Seed Library, Sew Fun at the Library, and other program supplies. This will allow them to take advantage of good buys when speed is needed. This will be placed on the next agenda.

9) President's Report: Joan

- Nothing else to cover.

Next Book Sale: April 27, 2023, from 2-6 pm

Next Board Meeting: May 10, 2023, at 10:15 am, Conference Room A

Adjournment: 11:31 am