

SOLDOTNA LIBRARY FRIENDS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes for Monthly Meeting held on January 10, 2024, following Annual Meeting

Attendance: Joan Merrick (President), Jane Fuerstenau (Winter Vice-President), Pam Joslin (Treasurer), Barbara Olson (Secretary), Romi Haseo

Absent: Mary Lou Wilcox (Summer Vice-President), Jane Gabler, Heather Rasch, Vicki Johnston-Freese

Guests: Rachel Nash (Librarian), Elaine Woodburn, Jeanette Pedginski

- 1) **Call to order at 1:08 pm:** Joan Merrick called the meeting to order.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda (See Packet A):** Romi moved, Pam seconded, agenda approved.
- 3) **Approval of minutes from December 13, 2023 Meeting:** Pam moved, Jane F. seconded, minutes approved.
- 4) **Voting on any new members to the Board of Directors:** Terms for Seats A, D, and G have expired but each member (Pam, Barbara, and Jane G.) agreed to serve another 3-year term.
- 5) **Election of Officers:**
 - Pam moved that we continue with our current slate of officers as follows:
 - President – Joan Merrick
 - Vice President – Jane Fuerstenau (Winter) and Mary Lou Wilcox (Summer)
 - Treasurer – Pam Joslin
 - Secretary – Barbara Olson
 - Jane F. seconded. All in favor.
- 6) **Treasurer: Pam**
 - Received two donation checks greater than \$500 which require board approval. Neither of these checks have specific usage instructions.
 - Nick Conner’s donation for \$2,000
 - Thrivent QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) Lois Schaffer for \$1,268.20
 - Joan moved that we accept these donations, Romi seconded, all in favor.
- 7) **Librarian’s Report: Rachel**
 - Rachel discussed the phone calls and interactions generated by the January 6th event planned by a private group (Soldotna Pride) who had reserved the Community Room. The misconception was that the program was planned and sponsored by the library rather than planned and sponsored by the private group. Many members of the public were very upset about this event and voiced their objections to the library staff. The event was eventually cancelled by its organizers due to threats of violence. Rachel commended the library staff who remained calm and professional while handling all the inquiries, providing good customer service despite the abuse.
 - Rachel felt this was a great opportunity to let the public know that the Community Room can be reserved by any group. It is a welcome inclusive space where freedom of speech can be exercised.

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- Rachel stated that if this issue escalates, she may ask the Friends to attend the Library Advisory Board meetings or City Council meetings to advocate for the library.

8) Old Business

- Attorney review of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws: Pam
 - Pam will check on the attorney (Kristine Schmitt) progress.
 - Pam would also like to examine our Conflict-of-Interest Policy this year. Romi has an example used by another organization.
 - Pam would like to reconsider getting Board of Directors Insurance.
- Holiday Bake Sale/Art Sale Report: Barbara (See Packet B):
 - These notes will be valuable when we plan next year's event.
 - Discussed what to do with the leftover baked goods. This will be discussed prior to next year's event.

9) New Business:

- Barbara asked about adding Library Advisory Board members to our database so they can be more aware of the Friends activities. Jane F. will encourage them to become members of the Friends. They would receive emails about are activities.
- Jeanette discussed honoring Lifetime members. It would be nice to acknowledge our Lifetime members, perhaps on a poster in the basement bookstore. Joan felt that each person would need to approve this before posting their name.
- Discussed that prior boards had encouraged memorial donations. We no longer do this, so no one knows about these past donations anymore. Add this topic to the next agenda.

10) President's Report: Nothing to report.

Adjournment: 1:47 pm

Reminders:

- January 15, 2024 – Library Advisory Board Meeting at 5:15 pm
- January 25, 2024 – Next Book Sale from 2 to 6 pm
- February 14, 2024 – Next board meeting at 10:15 am

Known Absences:

- Mary Lou left October 29 and will return late March 2024