

SOLDOTNA LIBRARY FRIENDS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes for Monthly Meeting held on April 10, 2024 at 10:15 am

Attendance: Mary Lou Wilcox (Summer Vice-President), Jane Fuerstenau (Winter Vice-President), Barbara Olson (Secretary), Vicki Johnston-Freese, Jane Gabler, Romi Haseo, Heather Rasch

Absent: Joan Merrick (President), Pam Joslin (Treasurer)

Guests: Rachel Nash (Librarian)

- 1) **Call to order at 10:18 am:** Mary Lou called the meeting to order.
- 2) **Approval of Agenda (Packet A):** Romi moved, Vicki seconded, agenda approved.
- 3) **Approval of minutes from March 13, 2024:** Minutes were approved.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report (Packet B and C):**
 - In Pam's absence, Mary Lou noted we have over \$50,000. The book sales have been bringing in a lot of money. Income is high, expenses are low.
- 5) **Book Sale Report:** Vicki
 - Jane F. reported that the Kenai Library is no longer taking donated books. They are telling people to donate their books to Soldotna Library.
 - We made \$1,340.70 at the March 28 book sale attended by 167 patrons.
 - Courtney Pearson has volunteered to maintain our bulletin board in the library foyer, replacing Suzanne Richards who is moving out of state.
 - Vicki placed a cart of free books in the foyer - hard back American Heritage and National Geographic. These books will be available for free until Monday April 15.
 - Discussion about changing the hours of the book sales. Vicki passed out a sheet showing how many patrons come between 2-5 pm and between 5-6 pm. She would like to consider changing the hours to be from 1 pm to 5 pm so that our volunteers could get home earlier. This change would not take effect until January since we have already published an annual calendar. New banners would need to be purchased. Mary Lou suggested that we have more Saturday sales. The banner for Saturday sales has hours 10 am to 4 pm. Eight workers (in 2- or 3- hour shifts) are needed for each book sale - 1 in the book room, 2 for payment processing, 1 for greeter. This will be discussed at our next meeting.
 - Survey people at the April 25 book sale to see if people coming between 5-6 pm could come earlier if we changed the hours, or would they be able to come to a Saturday sale. How much money is coming between 5-6 pm. This will be discussed at our next meeting.
 - Book Sale Survey results (Packet D): Barbara
 - Survey from 3/28/2024 book sale found that 14% of the shoppers were new, 86% had shopped at previous book sales.
 - Most people knew about the book sale from the outdoor Banner (31%) or from social media (13%).
 - Approximately 750 items were sold (700 were books).
- 6) **Librarian's Report:** Rachel
 - 10-Year Anniversary Party will be Monday April 29 from 3-5 pm. There will be a slide show recapping the history of the library, cake, balloons, scavenger hunt, and more.
 - Audio book vendor stopped preprocessing audio books. Cases arrive broken so we cannot process them ourselves. Many cars no longer have CD players - maybe phase out CD's. Looking into Play Aways for adults. We are circulating electronic books through Overdrive.

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Most public libraries are doing away with their books on CD collections. No quick decisions will be made on this.

- They have made decisions about the magazine collection. We have stopped subscriptions to magazines with low circulation. Electronic magazines through Libby are circulating more than physical magazines, and the same magazine can be read simultaneously by multiple people. DVD's are currently the highest circulation collection in the library.
- Use of the money dedicated to the Banned Book Club: The idea was to spend some of the money for extra copies of the books being read as well as for snacks for the meetings. She will check in with the coordinator to see how the money can be utilized.
- A big staff change is coming up - Miss Linda is retiring June 14 after 16 years with the library.
- Discussion about how our library is being affected by the banned book controversies. Nothing official is happening locally however there are things happening elsewhere that Rachel is keeping track of.

7) Old Business

- Attorney review of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws: Pam
 - Mary Lou asked the group if we would like to get this moving by paying an attorney to finish this up. The pro bono attorney isn't moving ahead on this as it is currently stalled. Jane F. stated we should set a deadline to be the filing of the biennial report. Mary Lou will check with Pam so we can set a deadline of this work being done by the time we file our next biennial report (which we believe is July 1st). We have \$1,000 in the budget for this work, and we can offer payment to get this moving. This will remain on the agenda.
- Procedure/Policy for using small project fund: Rachel has talked to the city finance director who is double checking with the auditor to see if gift cards could be purchased for use by the library. Currently the best option is to have the Friends make the purchase and then give the item to the library. Rachel will be requesting the purchase of a button press shortly. If gift cards can be used, that would probably be easiest. This will remain on the agenda.
- Memorial Donations/Legacy Donations: This is something Pam is researching this for a future web page. When Pam finds the information on past memorial donations, this information would be put on a web page. This will remain on the agenda.
- Bulletin Board Volunteer: This was already discussed in the Book Sale Report.

8) New Business:

- Domain Name Registration: Barbara renewed our current domain. She planned to change our web from .COM to .ORG but has now decided not to do this. The .ORG used to signify non-profit, but it has lost its meaning. Wild Apricot only works with non-profits, yet half of the sites are .COM. Decided not to make any changes in our domain name.
- Progress Days is Saturday July 27: Mary Lou pulled out information from last year. We will discuss this at the next meeting and get it organized. Decide who will be managing this event, who will contact bakers, who will obtain donations of coffee/tea and bottled water, etc. The Community Room reservation for Friday July 26 (noon to 6) and Saturday July 27 (all day) was given to Rachel.
- After the Holiday Event, we tabled the question about what to do with leftover baked goods. Barbara talked to the Food Bank (Deanna) and found they will take our leftover baked goods if they are individually wrapped even though they were homemade.

9) President's Report: Mary Lou

- It's good to be back.

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Adjournment: 11:45 am

Reminders:

- April 15, 2024 - Library Advisory Board meeting at 5:15 pm - (Jane F.)
- April 25, 2024 - Next Book Sale from 2 pm to 6 pm
- April 29, 2024 - 10-Year Anniversary Party from 3-5 pm (Mary Lou is doing balloons)
- May 8, 2024 - Next board meeting at 10:15 am
- July 27, 2024 - Progress Days Book Sale 10 am to 4 pm, Bake Sale during the parade (9 am to 1 pm)

Known Absences:

- Joan will miss the April, May, and June board meetings
- Barbara will miss the May 8 board meeting
- Jane F. will miss the May 8 board meeting