

# Friends of Portage Lake District Library

## Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2018

Members attending: Chris Alquist, Maria Bergstrom, Nancy Bird, Mary Fran Desrochers, Shannon Healy, Gloria Melton, Emily Rafaelli

1. Chris shared with us information about the recent re-organization of storage spaces at the library. The front space has been cleared out to make room for a possible coffee shop. Friends materials stored there have been moved to an off-site storage area (this includes scrabble event materials, Cinco de Mayo materials, our donation box, our t-shirts, and old Friends of the Library records). There are still some donation books in the community room closet, but there is no room for any more books to be stored there prior to book sales. We will need to talk with Dillon about what to do with books for book sales. Hauling them to and from the storage unit for each sale seems like a challenge. Maria will talk with Dillon about what our options are. In the meantime, access to the off-site storage is through Dillon or Chris. At some point, we should plan to go through the Friends boxes and clean out what we don't need to keep.
2. Funds from Scavenger Hunt—Maria noted that Jim Desrochers, our Treasurer, would like to have specific accounts of how the funds we raised are being spent by the library. Maria will talk with Dillon about what projects we might fund with this money. Also, she will confirm whether the Betty Narhi book spine has been installed with the memorial money.
3. Schedule of events for the year:
  - a. **March:**
    - i. **Dinner fundraiser:** At this point, Continental Fire Company is not able to cater our event. Since the time is getting short, we decided to postpone this event to either next year or next fall. In the meantime, Mary Fran will check with Shelby Turnquist with Houghton Schools to see whether Shelby would be able to cater for an event not held at the school.
  - b. **April:**
    - i. Library Appreciation Week is April 9-13. We will hold our regular **Staff Appreciation Lunch** on Tuesday April 10. Maria will organize sign up for bringing food via email.
    - ii. We discussed the “**Tax Freedom Drawing**” we have done in the past for a free membership at the library or a

reimbursement for the average cost of a membership. For two families, this would cost the Friends \$260. We decided that we couldn't justify spending this much money on just two families, even as a way to promote the use of the library. Instead, it was proposed that for Library Appreciation Week, the friends could host a drawing each day for a gift certificate to one of our supporting downtown businesses (5<sup>th</sup> and Elm, Apple Blossom Mercantile, etc). Library patrons would be encouraged to put their names into the drawing each day for a **"We appreciate your patronage" prize**. Maria will talk with Dillon about this suggestion.

- iii. We are proposing a new fundraiser to take the place of the postponed dinner—this will be a **Book Art event** (more discussion below) to be held in March/April

**c. May:**

- i. We talked briefly about the **Cinco de Mayo** salsa tasting that we have done in the past. In order to stay with our mission, we felt we would need to make this into some kind of fundraiser to justify the effort. At this time, we will not pursue this, because of putting time into a Book Art event (see below).
- ii. We will plan to meet with the Downtown Business association in May about a repeat of the **Downtown Scavenger Hunt**. Our goal will be to have sponsors committed by some time in June so our publicity will have all major sponsors listed.

d. **June:** A Book Sale to coincide with the kick off of the Summer Reading Program is planned

e. **August:** Scavenger Hunt fundraiser

f. **November:** Book Sale

**4. New Event: Book Art challenge and auction**

a. Mary Fran and Maria proposed this idea as an alternative to the dinner. We still have about 25-30 Readers' Digest Condensed Books left over from book sales. We had talked about doing a workshop to make purses or folded paper art. Instead, we are suggesting a fundraiser auction as follows:

- i. Interested artists and community members can take a Reader's Digest book (tentatively available at the end of February). Their challenge is to make a piece of art/craft using at least

some part of the book—could be a purse, folded paper craft, collage, etc. No limit on what can be done other than a physical piece of the book must be included. We will make an effort to reach out to local artists so we get high quality pieces, but we will also open up the challenge to the public.

- ii. Artwork is returned by April 2 and put on display at the library. Artists are welcome to include business cards and/or flyers with their artwork for display if they wish. We could have a “viewer’s choice” award or other awards that library patrons could vote for.
- iii. Meanwhile, we will sell tickets for the art auction. Each ticket holder will get a piece of book art, but they will not necessarily know which piece they are getting. This is based on a similar auction done by the Community Arts Center. Gloria volunteered to talk to Cythia Cote about the details of their event. If we sell tickets for \$30 for up to 30 art pieces, we could potentially raise up to \$900.
- iv. There was discussion of whether to do a reception/event for the actual auction or distribution of art. No decisions were made, but if we go this route we will keep it simple/inexpensive. One suggestion was to tie it to a Friends book sale. We will make a decision after getting more information from the Community Arts Center.
- v. Shannon will start working on some publicity materials.
- vi. We will **meet again on Tuesday, February 6 at 5:30 pm** at the library to finalize plans.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Bergstrom (substituting for Emily Rafaelli)