

# Friends of Portage Lake District Library

Sept 19, 2017

In attendance: Cindy Barth, Nancy Bird, Maria Bergstrom, Mary Fran Desrochers, Gloria Melton, Emily Rafaelli

## Old Business:

Treasurer Jim Desrocher will get a check to the library for the Betty Narhi memorial (book plaque in the entryway). We have collections and commitments for the full \$500.

The August Scavenger Hunt was a great success. Maria shared the feedback from the survey we sent to participants. It sounds like the timing and cost were about right and people really enjoyed the event and would participate again.

## New Business:

**Mission Statement:** We spent some time re-considering our mission statement (as listed on our most recent brochure). Many thanks to Shannon Healy for pulling together mission statements from many different Friends of the Library organizations. We came up with the following draft and will take another look at it at the next meeting:

*"The Friends of the Portage Lake District Library is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that promotes and supports the Portage Lake District Library. We share the belief that libraries are vital to the health of our communities.*

*Our purpose is to create public support for the library, encourage the use of the library and its resources, and develop supplemental funding for the library's services and programs."*

**Winter fundraiser dinner:** Mary Fran reported on some preliminary work she has done for a winter fundraiser, a "Night in Tuscany" dinner held at the library.

She met with the chefs at the Continental Fire Company about whether they could cater a pasta meal for us. Our goal would be to charge \$40-50 per person, so we are looking for a meal that would cost us \$20-25. The fundraising goal would be to have 50 people attend and to raise \$1000. The Continental Fire Company is interested and taking some time to figure out what they can do and at what price. We will also look into whether people can bring their own bottle of wine to the dinner.

Our goal would be to not have additional fundraising (raffles, 50/50) so people don't feel they are being hounded. Tentative plans include musical entertainment—Lara Neves offered to sing some Italian songs, perhaps the HS string quartet would play,

and Maria will check with Paul Bergstrom about doing some wandering violin during the meal.

We spent some time discussing the feasibility of getting 50 people to attend a dinner like this at this price. Ultimately, we decided to go ahead with our plans. If we can't get enough people, it will cut into our fundraising, but we feel confident we can at least cover our costs.

Tentative dates were considered, and Mary Fran will check back with the caterers about January 27 and March 3 as options.

We will also see whether the Houghton National Honor Society members might be willing to help that evening.

**November Library Millage Renewal:** We need to spend some time talking about plans for the millage renewal, but we are required by law to meet away from the library itself. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Sept 28, 6 pm at Maria Bergstrom's house. We will do a chili potluck dinner. Anyone interested in helping with the millage efforts is encouraged to come.

**Next regular Friends meeting:** We decided to start meeting at 5:30 rather than 6:30 to accommodate member schedules.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bergstrom

Secretary pro tem