

Friends of the Merrimack Public Library
January 29, 2024 meeting - 7:00 pm - Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Debbe Walter, Friends president; Claire Muise, Friends Vice President; Victoria Agnew, Friends treasurer; Pauline Ducharme, director at large; Jennifer Jobin, board member; Michelle Nover, Friends secretary; Yvette Courser, Director Merrimack Public Library; Stefanie Dinette and Reggie Bruin, Staff members Merrimack Public Library.

Minutes

The minutes from the November 27, 2023 meeting were submitted for approval
Pauline made a motion to accept the minutes
Debbe seconded the motion
Motion passed

Next Friends Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Treasurer Report

The financials were presented - \$19,963.98 ending balance

Book sale attendance:

Friday attendance - 20

Saturday attendance - 150

The book sale totaled \$1734.25, including both sale days.

Michelle made a motion to accept the financials

Pauline seconded the motion

Motion passed

Updated info from November meeting

N&H Book Distribution did finally respond to Debbe's email from November. The representative did not come to our book sale, but explained that his method of attending book sales was a 60/40 split.

Staff Funding Requests

Stefanie asked for new containers to store the 3D printer filament spools. Presently they are stored in bags and getting damaged. The new bins would be airtight and the exact size needed for the spools.
Cost: \$165.44

Victoria made a motion to approve this expenditure

Michelle seconded the motion

Motion approved

National Library Week - April 7-13, 2024

We've had four themed baskets in the past - usually 2 adult themed and 2 children's and teen themed. (last year we had 225 entries - of which 75 were teens!)

1. The children's department already have their items selected - Cathy will prepare this basket
2. Adult basket - Claire volunteered to create a coffee themed basket - she will donate the basket and items
3. Gardening basket - Stefanie will create
4. Teen basket - Cathy will create this as well

We estimated the cost of each basket to be \$100 - total \$300. The baskets must be ready to display no later than April 5th.

Claire made a motion to provide \$300 for three baskets
Michelle seconded the motion
Motion passed

NH Humanities Programs

Stefanie presented ideas for NH Humanities programs to coincide with upcoming book club books.

March - "In a dark, dark wood"

April - Finance theme - "the Henna Artist"

May - "The keeper of enchanted room"

Many ideas were discussed. When the Friends sent in suggestions to Debbe, they were varied and a wide range of topics.

Stefanie is looking for ideas that are not being presented all around the area at various libraries.

In response to how many people we can accommodate in the Klumpp Room:

Patron capacities do change depending on the presentation. With tables - up to 20 or so.

No tables - up to 80 but we try not to squeeze in too many.

The capacity does depend on the needs of the presenter.

In the past presentations we are not sure if the attendees are only Merrimack patrons. We advertise in our newsletter and social media and sometimes Patch.

Often we get people who have not yet been to the library.

Some ideas Stefanie will look into:

Family presentation - written family stories - how to preserve the stories. Writing and genealogy at the same time or writing mindfully.

"Beginners mind for writing" lead by NH Poet Laureate Alexandra Peary

The cost varies per presenter - Stefanie will pursue the two suggested ideas and then let us know the cost.

We will vote on the fee by email once the fee is determined.

Director's Report

1. The elevator project did not begin this morning as planned, due to the main mechanic being snowed in. It was too late to change the plans of the library being closed - the staff had already started on their projects. The elevator project will begin on Tuesday January 30th at 7:00 am and proceed as planned.
2. Annual report submitted to the Town for year of 2023. It contained the yearly summation of everything including all financials. This report is transparent and shows all aspects of the library.
3. Passport facility renewal - as a passport facility we have to renew annually and should be getting 2 more representatives to assist with passport process.
4. Working with the staff to update the personnel manual.
5. The NH Legislature is holding a state house public meeting regarding a bill that requires library staff to divulge minor reading history and activity while in the building. This bill is proposing that parents can ask to see their child's reading history. Staff would have to surrender this information. Also tracking teen behavior while in the building. How to do this? What are they browsing? This is a very complicated issue and brings up many questions for library staff - how to make this into practice?

Trustee Report

1. Resuming the strategic process soon - next month
2. Budget season went forward very well. Yvette's presentation to the town went very well - no questions asked. Public hearing February 15th.
3. The Trustees subscribed to "Grant Station" - an online database of different grants available - you put in criteria to help look for different grant opportunities. We are starting with a 2 year subscription.

No new business.

Victoria made a motion to adjourn the meeting
Claire seconded the motion
Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm