

Friends of the Bridgman Library Board Meeting– November 21, 2019

Present: Judith Ray, Carol Nash, Carl Ceithaml, Julie Bernstein, Dennis Kreps

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Officers' Reports:

President (Judith Ray): There will be two board positions open in January (president and recording secretary). Judith is interested in moving to the recording secretary position, possibly combining this with the corresponding secretary. Julie is considering moving to the president position. We will publicize the openings in an email to targeted members. Dennis also suggested posting the Friends meeting minutes on the library website as a way to share information.

Vice President (Carol Nash) – Carol has been making the calls recently for Book Shoppe volunteers and has not had any problem filling the slots. Wendy will resume doing this. Book sorting is continuing and holiday books have been displayed in the Book Shoppe. We will have special sales featuring different genres of books each month to try and move the inventory.

Recording Secretary (open position – Julie Bernstein is taking the minutes today)

Corresponding Secretary/Membership (Julie Bernstein) – Three new members joined this fall.

Treasurer (Carl Ceithaml) – We gave a \$10,000 donation to the library to help with the renovations. Carl hasn't received the library reimbursement requests for the summer reading program and for the Gift of Reading (books given to Bridgman Elementary School first graders). The Book Shoppe sales are strong and have raised \$1700 through the first 3 quarters of the year. We had the lowest total income since 2010 but also had the lowest expenses; this led to the highest recent net income through the first 3 quarters.

Director's Report (Dennis Kreps) – Dennis is interested in building relationships with the area communities and has met with officials from Bridgman, Lake Township, and Chikaming Township. Dennis likes to do community outreach and is working on creative ways to get more people to the library. He recently visited the middle school with Eden (the children's librarian) during lunchtime, when there is a pop-up library at the school two days a week. There will be a community open house at the library on Friday, November 22 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. to show off the renovations and allow people to meet Dennis. Dennis is developing a list of projects that the Friends might pay for; some possibilities are equipment to display artwork for monthly art exhibits and a set of Chrome books to be used for workshops.

Old Business

Garage Sale – Moving the date to the fall did not affect the popularity of the sale. 77 permits were purchased and 6 tables at the library parking lot were purchased. There was an error on the map and one person was inadvertently left off of the map. Their permit money was refunded and Judith sent an apology letter. We will work to do more proofreading of the map in the future. It was also suggested that we do a better job at publicizing the tables in the library parking lot.

New Business – Discussion of the Future of the Friends

Like many other organizations, the Friends is run by a small group of volunteers. The plan going forward is to concentrate on those events that make the most money for the organization. These include the Book Shoppe, membership, and the summer book sale. Garage sale permits are the next profitable item and we will continue with this activity. The Friends will also continue to hold a spring luncheon in April to thank the library staff and Friends volunteers, making sure to introduce and recognize the staff members. This event is also where the Friends' Volunteer of the Year award is presented. Dennis also suggested that the Friends could make use of the library Facebook and Instagram accounts to help publicize activities, such as special sales in the Book Shoppe.

Adjourn – 10:15 a.m.

Next meeting – Thursday, January 16, 2020