

FRIENDS OF THE RINGWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2024
7:00 pm at the Library and via ZOOM

NOTES

Call to Order 7:06pm

In Attendance: Wendy Leine, Fiona Rose, Leona Kumagai, and Library Director Wendy Sandford

Chair's Remarks Wendy Leine welcomed the small group of attendees and apologized for the short notice for the meeting, and for the lack of agenda with the invitation

Financial Report Eileen Manley was not in attendance but based on previous meeting notes WL reported that as of 8/31 we had about \$18,000 with no outstanding bills

Remarks from the Director Wendy Sandford thanked the Friends for all their valuable library assistance during 2023

Old Business:

- **Jazz Up Comedy Fundraiser:** Just under 40 tickets were sold so we have a profit of about \$300. Food donation was great but WS said we can always use more volunteers, particularly for clean up
- **Book Sale:** EM submitted a report that showed our net profit was \$3620.80. This is down from previous years but may be attributed to the following reasons: We saw record numbers in the last two years because of COVID. People read more during the pandemic and there was no sale in 2020. In addition, we collected donations only for one day this year. EM suggested, and it was discussed and agreed upon that we should extend donation collections to two days...Monday and Tuesday. Additionally, we discussed doing more flier advertising. Even though we did a lot via social media, we may have missed people who do not have access to that. The Library will print copies of the flier and Friends will make sure they are posted locally (Stop and Shop, Paint store window, Cupsaw Market, etc). In order to allow us to distinguish between adult and teen volunteers and more accurately anticipate who is going to show up when, WL will incorporate a question on the Sign Up Genius that asks whether or not the volunteer needs service hours paperwork. 2024 Book Sale will take place the week of 10/14, during the Library's open hours..
- **Cupsaw Lake Artisan Fair:** EM submitted a report that showed that we profited \$260. There is a \$30 fee to have a table but, once again, a Friend donated that fee. Items sold during the Fair, which ran from 9 am to 4 pm on Nov. 11, 2023, included used books (predominantly children's books), bookmarks (donated by Friends members), embroidery crafted pieces (donated by Friends members) and fashion bracelets (donated by our own Director). Merchandise from the Friends was offered only later in the day, when room became available on the table. We did not use the Fair as a platform for recruiting members for the Association and the Friends. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Friends should continue to have a presence at the Fair but a decision was tabled until EM could be present to give her opinion
- **Friends 2024 Budget Line Proposal:** WS submitted a detailed proposal but in light of the fact that the agenda for this meeting was not sent out with the meeting invitation, and the low attendance at the meeting, it was decided that we will bring it to everyone's attention for the February meeting and plan to discuss it then

- **Carol Baleigh leaf:** WS reported that the leaf has been delivered and the Library Staff will make sure that it is hung in a prominent spot

New Business:

- **St. Patrick's Day Event:** March 23, 2024. Amy Boyle Geisel has volunteered to run the Family event again. WS reported that, through a grant, the Library will also be hosting a free concert for St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 15th. The concert will start at 7 and run about 90 minutes. Help will be needed from 6-7 for set up and from approximately 8:30 -? for clean up. WL will create a Sign Up Genius for the concert and will speak to ABG regarding who should create the Sign Up Genius for the Family event. FR will send an email on 2/12 for the February meeting that will include both sign ups, another email on 3/4 with a reminder for both sign ups, and then another on 3/18 for the March meeting which will include a reminder for the Family event sign up
- **Proposed Fundraiser:** Iron Mountain Stage Company comedy "Flamingo Court," last weekend in April and first weekend in May. This was tabled so that EM can provide more information at the next meeting
- **Fundraiser:** "Dinner on the Titanic" library program for families, part of Summer Reading. Mary Ellen D'Elia plans to attend the February meeting and will provide more details then. General consensus was that it sounded like a fun and potentially very profitable idea.
- **Ideas for new merch:** Tabled discussion on this for a future meeting

Next Meeting Date Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment 8:01pm