

FRIENDS OF THE RINGWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

7:00 pm at the Library and via ZOOM

NOTES

Call to Order - 7:03pm

In attendance - Wendy Leine, Fiona Rose, Karen Marcus, Eileen Manley, Amy Boyle Geisel, Mickey Hamell, and Library Director Wendy Sandford

Chair's Remarks - Wendy Leine made us aware that the Book Sale Sign Up Genius had not been sent out to the Friends and Fiona Rose agreed to send out another mail chimp email the next day

Financial Report - Eileen Manley reported that the opening balance was \$23,264.70. Some money came in from museum passes and the Titanic event. There were a few expenditures. Balance as of the end of August is \$25,241.22

Remarks from the Director - Wendy Sandford - still fielding questions from patrons as to the difference between the Friends and the Association. These questions seem to come up more frequently around the time of Association dues. WS suggested adding some verbiage to the dues application that explains that the Friends are not a separate organization, rather a standing committee of the Association.

Old Business:

- **Paint and Sip:** Thursday 9/26 @ 6pm. Currently there are 17 spots filled and 13 empty. FR will post it on Ringwood Moms and the Library will put it in the next newsletter
- **Book Sale:** October 14-19 EM and KM think we are in good shape other than needing more volunteers. They went to see the seniors group and advised them of their advance shopping opportunity while also talking to them about the Friends. EM will make more price signs, perhaps on poster paper. There was discussion about creating and handing out a bookmark with information about the Friends (here's what we do, how we help the library, next meeting date, will you help?) on it to Adult patrons. FR will work on that and WL will work on something for the kids.

New Business:

- **Recruitment Efforts/Promoting Friends** - We are all concerned about the future of the Friends. Lots of brainstorming took place with FR and MH volunteering to come speak to the parents at the end of Story time (KM will write something up) to encourage them to get involved. Talking points will include questions to the kids ie how many of you have attended the St. Patrick's pre parade event? Who enjoyed the summer reading program? Follow up with, these programs will disappear without your help/involvement. KM suggested taking a year off from the Book Sale. EM suggested finding a large, long term fundraising project that would bring the community together to join the Friends and work together towards a common cause. EM also raised the point of spending down our bank balance. Perhaps investing in a major author to come and speak/read/sign books.
- **Artisan Fair** - EM wants to do it again this year. ABG and FR both expressed that it may not be worth our time to be there given the difficulty we have in getting volunteers and the small number of people who actually stop and engage. EM doesn't mind being there all day and is willing to do it one more time and then maybe next year we don't do it.

- **Proposed Friends Fundraiser:** Safane program April 2025 honoring National Library Week (\$200) - Cliff has committed to bringing people to help set up and clean up, which would make hosting this event much less challenging for us. ABG moved that we book Saturday, April 5 and spend the \$200, and KM seconded. All in favor. WS will contact Safanes
- **Dine to Donate** - Sam's Bar and Grill is willing to host. ABG will reach out to him to find a date. FR can do flyer as needed

Next Meeting Date Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Note - the date was originally 10/17 but that is the week of the book sale.

Adjournment 8:31pm