

FRIENDS OF THE RINGWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEETING OF June 15, 2023

7:00 pm at the Library and via ZOOM

NOTES

Call to Order 7:06pm

In Attendance: Fiona Rose, Wendy Leine, Cathie Studwell, Lisa Petri, Leona Kumagai, and Library Director Wendy Sandford

Chair's Remarks: Co-Chair Wendy Leine welcomed attendees. Co-Chair Fiona Rose reported that current Secretary Kristin Calman would like to step down in the next few months so we are looking to find a replacement for her.

Financial Report: There was no financial report this evening as Eileen Manley was not in attendance.

Remarks from the Director: Wendy Sandford acknowledged that the piano was purchased by the Friends so tuning will always be in the Friends budget, and the library does not need to make a special request for that money. The piano will need to be tuned 2x/year and possibly before special performances. WS discussed the need to initiate a Friends budget to determine what expenditures are constant and put together a proposed budget for the year (going forward) to help with planning. Lisa Petri recommended that the Friends work with the Directors on the compiling the budget using past meeting minutes.

Old Business:

- **Museum ticket purchases** – LSC has not yet cashed our check. Montclair Art Museum has been paid and we are expecting those tickets to arrive soon. Morris and Cooper Hewitt Museums are requesting credit card payment, but Library is trying to convince them to invoice.
- **Cabaret Night – September 30th** – suggesting a fee of \$10/pp. WS suggested not having tables like last time as set up is arduous without sufficient volunteers and we can fit more people if we don't use them. Fitting more people is better as this time we are paying the Safanes and it is a fundraiser. Suggested setting up in proscenium. Event is BYO but we discussed asking local vendors (Sam's, Stop and Shop) to donate water or snacks. We could provide a mocktail. Possibly have servers to give it more of a cabaret feel, since we won't have tables.

New Business:

- **Grant for Tween Area "Middle Ground"** – WS requested \$1600 to purchase gondola unit racks. DVDs and CDs could be moved from existing shelving and those cases could be repurposed as walls to enclose the area and get the tween space started. WL made a motion to approve up to \$1600 for the racks, FR seconded, and it was unanimously approved. WL mentioned that her son is in search of an Eagle Scout project, and she will talk to him about possibly taking on the task of building a "tree house" for the space.

- **Summer Reading Program** – 5-week program beginning June 20 with theme of All Together Now. Each week will focus on Being Kind to community, family, animals, library, etc. with requests for donations that match each week's target. For example, Be Kind to the community will ask for donations for the Center for Food Action. Be Kind to the earth will ask for donation of items that can then be loaned out to the community instead of trashed (ex if someone donates a ukelele, the library could then loan that out to someone who wanted to learn how to play it)
 - **prize funding** – WS requested \$50 for a Barnes and Noble gift card as a prize for the adult program. LP moved to spend the \$50, CS second and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - **program funding** – WS requested \$275 for a program called Creating with Clay. The program will accept up to 18 pp and will be geared towards older kids maybe 8 and up. CS moved to spend \$275 for Creating with Clay, LP second, unanimously approved.
 - **end of SRP outdoor music fiesta** – Saturday, August 5 – It was noted that this is also Cupsaw weekend and the ELAC invitational so we are aware that volunteers might be a little scarce. WL will create a Sign Up Genius for volunteers, donations of baked goods and water as well as working the table to sell merchandise. SuG will go out with next month's meeting invitation. WS suggested that we put FoL stickers on the water bottles for more visibility (opportunity for service hours for a HS student). There was discussion about reducing prices on apparel to zero out our current stock and then discussing future purchases. FR will look into a salsa instructor. CS suggested doing a 50/50 raffle and WS will look into gambling license for this.
- **Gala** - (Cathie Studwell): Tentatively scheduled for May 8, 2025 – Cathie provided us with a rough timeline at the last meeting and will forward to WS to distribute

Immediate priorities are:

- Getting Board of Trustees approval
- Will we have the funding to do this? Friends will have to put out a large sum of money initially in the hopes that we will recoup/exceed what we spend. CS will contact Skylands catering to find out if room rental and catering are two separate fees, and how much is the cost. If cost is prohibitive, we will research other venues
- Need 10-12 people committed or we won't be able to make it happen. Asking members who attended this meeting to gauge interest in person

Tabled further discussion until first 3 priorities are met

Next Meeting Date Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment 8:26pm