

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE SAWYER FREE LIBRARY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020

Present: Gail Sarofeen, Lisa Christensen-Foley, Jeff Shindell, Colleen Hogan-Lopez, Kecia German, Sandy Reinecke, Dennis Corkery, Leslie Pearlman, Jane Gagliardi, Rosemary Howarth, Shelagh McCauley

Absent: Rebecca Aliberte

Guest: Beth Pocock (Deputy Director of the Library)

Minutes (Shelagh McCauley):

The Minutes of the December 18, 2019 meeting were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer (Kecia German): see attached

The December finance report was discussed and approved by the Board. A copy is attached

Mary-Kathryn Gray, the SFL Book-keeper, will produce a QuickBook year end report for the Board.

Hammond Castle is starting several programs and a possible membership will be researched by Kecia German.

Assistant Director (Beth Pocock):

New signage for the Book Shop was reviewed and was accepted with thanks to Beth Pocock. She will obtain cost of signage. End of aisle signage is still being discussed.

Federal money distributed by the states was granted in order to engage communities to look at issues within their community. The Sawyer Free Library has identified three issues: Immigration, Journalism in the public trust and Climate Change. The Immigration piece has already been displayed in the library. On April 9 there will be a Journalism program with discussion by guests Andrew Matz, David Abel, David Olson and an editor of the Gloucester High School newspaper. There will be an all city read of the book "Falter" by Bill McKibbin followed by a discussion in September.

Deborah Kelsey is retiring as the Director of the Library. A Search Committee will be formed to find a replacement and it is hoped that a new Director will be appointed by the end of the summer.

SFL Board and Saunders House Liaison (Gail Sarofeen):

Two new Trustees, Peter Brau and Jason Brisbois have been appointed.

Discussion was held with John Brennan, the Chairman of the Board of the SFL, regarding the timing of the Friends Membership Drive and the SFL Drive. From the Friends point of view there did not appear to be any significant conflict.

Regarding the new library building, there was talk of putting the Friends Book Shop in the Saunders House. This was not thought to be in the interest of the Friends, because of poor visibility of the shop and issues about whether the floors could support the books.

SFL Board and Committee reports are available on the library's website for perusal.

Art Auction (Gail Sarofeen):

Business completed for the 2019 auction.

Books (Kecia German):

The genres have been put in alphabetical order to aid in filing books. All fiction has been alphabetized by first letter only.

The Best Seller site has been exchanged with the Media(Audio-Visual) and Special Sale site, in order to give more visibility to Best Sellers, which will now be known as New Releases.

Income from the Book Shop was \$190.17 for the last 2 weeks of December and more than \$2300 for the 6 months from July to December.

Leslie Pearlman is retiring from the Board of the Friends of the Library. There was a vote of thanks to Leslie for all her hard work.

Jeff Shindell will pick up and bank the income from the Book Shop, a job ably done by Leslie.

Membership (Kecia German): Income this year was \$8260, last year it was \$6800. There are 170 members.

Public Relations (Colleen Hogan-Lopez and Sandy Reinecke):
No activity.

Product (Dennis Corkery and Leslie Pearlman):

Notecard supplies were increased but it was noted that the 2019 card revenue was only \$128 so future sales may be eliminated unless sales improve with Gloucester's 400th anniversary celebrations.

New Business (Kecia German):

An Echo Dot was donated to the Friends. It will be used in the Gift Basket for new members.

Cranney Home Service drawing is a fund raising effort whereby anyone can name a charity of their choosing and enter into a drawing of \$1,000 for that charity. Members could decide for themselves whether to enter by visiting their website as described by Rebecca Aliberte.

There will be no meeting in February owing to absence of key Board members.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18 at 3pm

Respectfully submitted, Shelagh McCauley