

Meeting of the Friends of the Union County Library

Union County Library Community Room, April 21, 2021

Friends in Attendance Jackie Volk, President Nancy Bryant, Secretary Robert Harford
Katherine Lavery Connie Rosenberry Sally Woodworth, Treasurer
Debra Davis Susie Brendle Judy Baldwin Helen Harford

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Jackie Volk, President.

Minutes from the January 20, 2021 Meeting were approved with Motion by Judy Baldwin and Second by Debra Davis.

Treasurer's Report

- "The Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison As of March 31, 2021" as well as a "Profit and Loss Detail (through March 31, 2021)" are attached to these Minutes and incorporated therein. A copy of each was handed out to each member present.
- Sally Woodworth summarized the reports by saying that we are down in Membership from 2020. The Profit and Loss Detail identifies specific checks written as well as the purpose. The annual contribution has been made to Ferst Readers. FOUCL provided their first quarter contribution to the Union County Public Library in February, 2021, and the 2nd quarter contribution of \$1200 is upcoming. After receiving no questions, Motion was made by Connie Rosenberry and Second by Robert Harford to accept the report.

Librarian's Report

- The Administration of the Mountain Regional Library has been working on a timeline of opening Library services to pre COVID levels. They are gradually reopening occupancy levels through the end of the Summer Reading. The Hospitality Room will be the last room within the Library to reopen due to space limitations (occupancy level approximately 3 persons). The Community Room is taking reservations beginning next month for non-profit, educational, or community based groups. Also, starting next month, restrictions will begin to be lifted for staff members.
- Susie thanked FOUCL for their February contribution of \$1,000. It was spent to support the Summer Reading Program. Entertainers have been booked, and she has reserved pavilions at Meeks Park for these events. One event involves dogs so that Event is better suited outdoors. There is a possibility that some of those events will become "in house" at the Library. If the Library is still limited on capacity, then the Park would be a better venue. Susie is looking forward to healthier times so that children and teens will feel safer about coming inside and using the Library. The Winter Read did have to be canceled, and FOUCL had agreed to provide \$25 Walmart gift cards to use as prizes. Since they went unused, Jackie Volk will address giving permission to Susie to use these cards as prizes in the Summer Reading Program. Susie also hopes that FOUCL would be willing to use at least some of the \$500 in nonrecurring funds to provide a Grand Prize as was done last year (a Contixo V8 Android tablet). Susie asked for FOUCL volunteers to help with the Summer Reading Kick Off Event ("Michelle and her Magical Poodles") June 7 at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior pavilion. "Tales and Tails" is the theme for 2021 Summer Reading. Susie mentioned a related planned Event by Smithgall Woods who is bringing "Bugs and Critters" on July 19 (finale for Summer Reading).
- Recent Mountain Regional Library statistics indicate that Union County Public Library accounts for 57% of the Mountain Regional Library's circulation and 60% of its attendance. The Mountain Regional Library System recently underwent a "Discard Week Project", and the Community Room was used for quarantining books and discarding.
- Susie will be doing Story Times starting May 3rd, one planned for Mother's Day week, one entitled "Teddy Bear Picnic", and one entitled "In the Flower Garden". Book Club will start coming back to the Library the second Wednesday in May using the Community Room.

- Periodical subscriptions have been ordered for the upcoming year, and FOUCL has paid for these. The back issues should begin soon.
- On behalf of Library staff, Susie expressed a huge thank you to FOUCL for the gifts given to them for National Library Workers Week.

Committee Reports

- Welcome – Katherine Lavery stated no new Memberships to report. Jackie Volk suggested that hopefully after things begin to open after the Pandemic that those numbers will change. She continues to submit articles to the local newspaper detailing FOUCL activities happening on behalf of the Library.
- Newsletter – A May Newsletter is planned. Connie Rosenberry hopes to include the Bakeless Bake Sale taking place in May and highlight Robert Harford, Webmaster, as Volunteer for the Quarter. Jackie Volk suggested some recent events - Children’s Reading Program, staff gifts for National Library Workers Day, the Dr. Seuss books presented to children in March. She will provide pictures. Suggestion was made to create a clever article highlighting the current need for a Vice President with some mention of criteria. A contribution of an article from Susie Brendle is expected to come in around the first of May.
- Webmaster – Robert Harford presented Monthly History graphics with attention directed to the Bandwidth numbers providing information about how much time visitors spent reading information once they accessed the Website. Recent Bandwidth numbers show the time spent in January-March, 2021 as the second, third and fourth highest numbers in the last 18 months. Robert announced that he is now “Webmaster” for the Friends of the Towns County Library.
- PayPal – Sally Woodworth states that PayPal shows what has been deposited and is set up to transfer deposits into the FOUCL bank account.
- Membership – Sally Woodworth stated that approximately 122 Memberships have been received so far compared to around 135 for 2020. This is quite different from 300 Memberships received during the time that money was being raised during Library renovations several years ago.

Old Business

- The Director and Partnership Agreement, discussed in the January, 2021 meeting, has been finalized and signed. A copy has been placed in the file.
- Picture Books were distributed to children for Dr. Seuss’ Birthday: Green Eggs and Ham, Fox in Socks, One Fish, Two Fish.
- The annual donation to Ferst Readers has been made by FOUCL.
- Recognition of National Library Workers Day on Tuesday, April 6 was made by FOUCL by presenting \$50 Walmart gift cards to the six UCPL staff members, including Susie Brendle. A special thanks was given to Robert Harford for adding to the total amount of each card.
- The \$25.00 Walmart gift cards, previously discussed and designated as prizes in the Winter Reading Program, will now be given as prizes in the Children’s Summer Reading Program. The responsibility for the Winter Read shifted to Mountain Regional Library System, and the prizes were not needed. Jackie stated that Susie had asked earlier about the Grand Prize given in last year’s Summer Reading Program. The cost for that prize (Contixo V8 Android Learning Tablet) was around \$150. Susie stated that the majority of Library patrons have Androids, and Susie assumes their children do also. That device was suitable for PreK through Second Grade with the majority of children who participate in Summer Reading being Elementary level and below. Suggestion was made for something like a Kindle Fire which would allow for the children to download books. Susie suggested that the Kindle Fire is not as consistent in downloading books from Libby. Susie will research ideas for devices and make the decision. Motion made by Connie Rosenberry to let Susie make the decision, and if a vote is required to do an email vote. Robert Harford Second. Connie Rosenberry stated an addition to the Motion for FOUCL to contribute a ceiling of around \$150.00 on the prize device. Second by Robert Harford.

New Business

- Jackie passed out books, [Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Animal Infographics](#) which need new homes. They were returned by Houghton Mifflin and sent back by the discard process. Some copies will be given out during Summer Reading, and the remainder will be placed in the Friend's Room if additional copies are desired.
- Book Pages have been cancelled, and since the subscription was paid annually, FOUCL was refunded money from April until year end. The subscription was discontinued due to the content of an ad and a subsequent patron complaint.
- May Bakeless Bake Sale funds will be used for current and future Children's Summer Reading Program(s).
- "Donation Jars" money collected will go toward future Children's Programs.
- Susie anticipates being able to use the Community Room for the "Everything Christmas" sale, as well as the November Bake Sale as the Library is currently in the last phase of opening up during the Covid Pandemic. They follow the Governor and CDC guidelines and don't anticipate any restrictions by the end of Summer, 2021 unless there is a spike in infections. Under present expectations, the "Everything Christmas" Sale will take place the first weekend in November (Friday and Saturday, November 5th and 6th/set up on Thursday). Items for "The Everything Christmas" Sale items will begin to be collected in October. Robert Harford again offered storage for sale items at his home. The Bake Sale usually takes place on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 23rd). Susie will put these dates on her calendar.
- The next Meeting of the Friends of the Union County Library will be July 21, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Motion was made by Judy Baldwin to make the meeting at the Senior Center Pavilion a Picnic, with Second by Katherine Lavery. Debra Davis made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting with Second by Connie Rosenberry, and the Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Bryant, Secretary