

Friends Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 21, 2023

1. **Call to Order** by President Martha Nork at 7:01 pm.
2. **Attendance**
Present: Linda Bastien, Linda Bolam, Charlene Cach, Kathy Fox, Claire Kreher, Chris Litka, Laura Mancini (NDL Director), Martha Nork, Rick Nork, Denise Stacer,
Absent: Cindy Frango, Betty Kaiser, Regina Mingela, Carol Murray, Linda Schwelnus,
Guest: Mike Poterala
3. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion to approve the agenda of June 15, 2023 was made by Denise Stacer and seconded by Linda Bastien. Motion passed.
4. **Review and approval of Meeting Minutes** from June 15, 2023 - motion to approve by Denise Stacer and seconded by Linda Bolam. Motion passed.
5. **Secretary's Report** - An email from Anne Mannisto was read to the Board. Anne said that she was grateful for the Friends and the work that we do for the community.
6. **President's Report** - Martha Nork
The Board voted by email to donate \$300 towards the Staff Appreciation party, which was held on 8/30.
The Friends received a donation from Judith Costigan for \$2000. The money will go into unrestricted funds unless the Board wishes to donate the money to the library for a specific thing, which we can discuss with Judith.
* **Program in December** - Possible programs are City Lights Chorus and Holiday Tunes at the Community Center. Denise made a motion to sponsor the City Lights Chorus on December 4th for \$1000. Chris Litka seconded. Motion passed. Discussion followed that this would put us over this year's budget for programs.
*Linda Schwelnus and Martha attended a Chamber of Commerce networking event on 9/13 at St. Johns.
*Denise & Martha attended a program entitled "Literacy for All: A Community Q & A" held at the Penn Theatre in Plymouth.
We had a discussion about Friends T-shirts. These could be worn at events and also sold in the Cellar. Denise will head this project.
The next Craft Kit Assembly will be on Tuesday, June 26th at 1:00 pm. (Friends room)
The first 300 craft kits will go in the Friends tote bags which have been imprinted with our Patron, Lifetime, and Business members who wish to have their names included.
Brand It Printing is the vendor.

7. **Library Director's Report -**

Community Reads

The book selected for this year's Community Reads is *Mika in Real Life* by Emiko Jean. All of the NDL's adult book clubs will be reading this title in October. Emiko Jean will be at the Novi Public Library on Tuesday, October 24 th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss her book.

Library of Things

In September, the NDL debuted several new items in its Library of Things collection. These include: a birding kit, a disc golf set, personal and portable cd players, a blu-ray player and a travel chess set. The Friends provided the funding for several of these items and the Library has already received a rave review for the birding kit!

Maker Space

The NDL continues to move forward with its plan to establish a Maker Space. The equipment and furniture have been ordered and the room is under construction. The Library hopes to have soft opening of the space in late October with grand opening in early December. The NDL staff is really excited to be able to offer this new service to the patrons and we hope it is a huge success.

Michigan Right to Read

The American Library Association has reported that this week that book challenge requests continued to be filed against public libraries at a record setting rate. The NDL currently has a title in its collection that is being challenged for removal.

In order to protect the precious right to read in the State of Michigan, the Michigan Library Association has formed a grassroots coalition of residents called Michigan Right to Read. Members of this group will speak out against censorship attempts in their respective communities. The Friends of the Plymouth and Canton Library hosted a community Q & A on September 19 on the why the right to read is so important. I encourage all members of the NDL Friends to become a part of the effort to protect the right to read in community, state and nation.

Summer Reading

The Library's Summer Reading program has concluded and was a phenomenal success. 1,370 people participated in the program this year which is a 50% increase in participants from last year and the highest number of participants in at the program since I have been at the NDL. The Library hosted an amazing finale party in the park in front of the Library on August 9 th that was attended by 301 people. The party featured a Kona Ice Truck, Air Brush Tattooing, a bounce house, an inflatable obstacle course,

lawn games, craft kits and a vintage hula hoops. The Library received a lot of positive feedback regarding the event and looks forward to doing an even bigger event next year.

Every year, the Summer Reading program has a theme and this year's theme was All Together Now. The Youth Department worked in a special way to incorporate this theme. They held a school supply drive for Cooke School and received 134 donations of requested supplies from the community. The Department also hosted a Maggie's Wigs for Kids Michigan Cut-A-Thon in the Carlo Room. The Library received 29 donations of hair. Shortly after the organization received the NDL's donation, they

informed us that a Northville family had just contacted them to receive service for one their children that was recently diagnosed with cancer.

I would like thank all the amazing NDL librarians for making this year's Summer Reading program such a smashing success. I also want to recognize in a special way the efforts of Caryn Bartone and Cathrine Trautman who completely reinvented how our Summer Reading programming was done and I think the results speak for themselves. Last but not certainly not least, I have to thank the Friends of the Library who provide the financial support to make this wonderful program possible.

Victorian Festival

The NDL hosted Northville Mayor Brian Turnball last night for a program on Northville's Victorian History. In honor of the Victorian Festival, the Youth Department put up a Book Walk featuring the book, The Secret Garden, based upon the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The Youth Department is also hosting a magic show for kids in Town Square this Saturday.

8. **Treasurer's Report** - Linda Schwelnus

Martha gave Linda's report. We received a \$2000 donation from Judith Costigan.

Income for July 1 - August 31: **11,326.67**

Expenses for July 1 - August 31: **\$1258.40**

Postage for gift books. We spent \$350 for the Local Author Fair and \$300 for Staff Appreciation. We paid \$425 on Friends Sponsored Programs; \$300 for Flower Lantern and \$125 for Eyes of Rose. The Summer Reading expenses are paid in September. Linda reminded everyone to use the Friends credit card for large purchases. Linda or Martha can provide details. Receipts go to Linda with all information. Please use Check Request form for reimbursements. The forms are available in Linda's folder.

Claire K. moved to approve the financial report. Seconded by Linda Bastien. Motion passed. There was a request for the 2023-2024 budget at next month's meeting.

9. **Committee Reports:**

A. Newsletter & Public Relations - Chris Litka

We sent out 185 folded newsletters

B. Membership - Kathy Fox

Patrons/Businesses - **29** Family - **36** Individual - **70** Teens - **4**

Lifetime - **14** A total of **153 Members**

Anne Mannisto renewed with a Lifetime membership in July.

Many thanks to Rick Nork for updating our spreadsheet.

We are still looking for a membership chairperson.

C. Read to Me Program - Denise Stacer - no report

D. Scholarships - Denise Stacer - no report

- E. Gift Books - Claire Kreher - We received 11 gifts this month. Nine in memory of someone and one honor gift for a total of \$470. One donation was from a lemonade stand. 58 Books and 7 CD's were added.
- F. Used Book Operations - Linda Bastien
July proceeds from the Cellar are \$1,736.60 and \$1,000 from Special sales. (\$2736.60)
August proceeds from the Cellar are \$1,291.55 and \$1,762.00 from vendor sales. (\$3,053.55)

10. **Special Committee Reports:**

Book Mark Project - the committee said that they need entries

Volunteer Fair - September 30, 11 - 1pm; Denise S. and Linda Bolam volunteered

Cider on Sunday - October 15th in the Carlo Room. A volunteer schedule was passed around. Need ideas for kids craft and centerpieces. Teen volunteers for crafts or set-up?

11. **Discussion:** Betty Kaiser made a thank you card for Judy Costigan. It was passed around for Friends' signatures.

Martha proposed a Lifetime members gathering for major donors. Everyone was interested and the idea was slated for Springtime.

12. **Adjourn** 8:23 pm

Next Board Meeting - Thursday, October 19th, 7pm, Friends Community Room