

Friends of the Salem Library

MINUTES JULY 14, 2024

The July 14, 2024, meeting of the Friends of the Salem Library was called to order at 2:00 pm by the President, Lydia Spruhan. Fourteen members were present.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the March meeting were read by the Treasurer, Ken Sosnowski, in the absence of the Secretary. A motion to approve the minutes as read was offered by Bill Chaffin and seconded by Kim Marchesano. The minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER:

Ken Sosnowski gave the treasurer's report. He provided a written quarterly report (attached) which he summarized. We renewed our two CDs at Atlantic Union Bank for 4.75% for 7 months. Our CD at PenFed will come due on August 1st and will be renewed, if the interest rate is reasonable. We received donations from several of the food trucks present at the recent affair. Thank you notes were sent to them. Ann Trip reported that the library had sold a number of excess wheeled stepstools for \$30 each and deposited the money in the FOSL account. A question was raised as to why we have much more in CDs than in the past. Ken Sosnowski replied that the current CDs carry much higher interest rates than a year ago, while the checking account earns virtually nothing. After the expenses of the summer reading program, we have a balance of \$24, 654.98 as of June 30th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A) Librarian, Ann Tripp distributed her report (attached). She reported that the Art Show was a success. This year, we displayed 60 pieces of artwork from all of the elementary schools. We held the show on Saturday with at least 140 attending and kept the art on display for another week.

- B) Library staff, Teresa and Josephine staffed a table at the Senior Health & Fun Day at the civic center. The table was well received by the large crowd. This is a good method of presenting the library and all its offerings to the general elderly population.
- C) The shelf end caps have been received and installed. Since they extend outward, they are much easier to see.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A) Library Requests: Ann Tripp distributed a listing of the library's requests for funding (attached). (a) \$300 was requested for "DIYourshelf" books. These are blank books the children can use to write and submit a story. The book is then entered into the library files and can be checked out. This program has been very popular. (b) \$500 was requested for books to be given away at Halloween in lieu of candy. Last year, 541 books were given. Ken Sosnowski requested that this be modified to \$700 to include books to be given away at the Crafty Christmas table in the Farmer's Market. (c) \$1200 was requested for a second dinosaur, a stegosaurus, for the library. Like the triceratops, this one could also be disassembled. The current dinosaur is extremely popular with children. (d) \$700 was requested design a new program, "Library by Candlelight". This program is designed to attract the middle-aged adult, a group with low library usage. (e) \$200 was requested to support the staff during training by the Library of Virginia on the new database and Hoopla (a new access to books online). The total requested was \$3100. The motion to approve "not-to-exceed \$3,100" was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- B) Future Planning: The Salem City Council approved a budget which included \$250,000 to be used to develop a plan for a new or renovated library. The study would include possible locations and building design.

BOOK SALE COMMITTEE:

- A) Fall Sale Plans: Ken Sosnowski presented a plan for the fall sale. The Community Room is reserved for the entire week of September 9th, allowing the books and tables to be moved at a slower pace than in previous years. Final set-up will be held on Thursday, the 12th. The sale will begin Friday morning with the Members' Only period until noon. The public sales will include; Friday 12:00 – 7:00, Saturday 9:00 – 4:00, Sunday 1:00 – 4:00. The Sunday sale will be a Bag Sale with bags costing \$5. The recent increase in donations should provide the stock needed for a successful sale. Clean-up will be held the following Monday.
- B) Storage Unit: We currently rent a 10'x15' storage space for \$221 per month. We are no longer using all that space. The plan is to shift to a smaller and less expensive space after the fall sale.

MEMBERSHIP/PUBLICITY:

- A) Ken Sosnowski presented the new tote bags. We purchased 500 bags for \$1287. We have 5 sponsors who paid \$200 to have their logo on the bags. Previously, we sold bags for \$5. There was discussion regarding what price we should use this year. By majority vote, it was decided that each bag would cost \$7. Bill Chaffin discussed the future plan to use the bags as a Welcome to Salem gift for those moving into Salem, beginning with the Valleydale apartments. Local businesses will be asked to provide brochures, discounts, etc. for each bag.

NEWSLETTER:

- A) A newsletter needs to be published by early August. Phil Roark said that he has a number of articles ready and as soon as he receives the President's Column and the information on the fall sale, he can begin designing the next edition. Both Lydia Spruhan and Ken Sosnowski promised to have their articles submitted ASAP.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held Sunday, October 13, 2024, at 2:00 in the Community Room.

These minutes submitted by Ken Sosnowski, Acting Secretary.