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Minutes of Feb 21, 2017

Present: Suzanne Aiardo, Anne Burton, Joanne Cimma, Pat Cronin, Mary Davitt, Betty Giugno, Tom Grant, Mari Harris, Jill Dugas Hughes, Judith Maguire, Lynne Oudekerk, Michael Poost, Mabel Pruden, Liz Reyner, Kate Hafner

Minutes: Minutes of the November 15, 2016 regular meeting and the January 17, 2017 Organizational meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Judith submitted the treasurer's report; the balance as of February 21, which is \$52,677.69.

Membership/Database: As of the end of 2016, we had 334 members, of which 27 were new members and 31 re-joined. The total of donations/renewals at this time is \$12,226. The letter asking for 2017 membership is going out this week. So far, we have 17 members for 2017.

Book Sale:

- Books are still coming in---sometimes so much it's hard to sort, and other times at a manageable rate.
- The dates for the 2017 book sales given in the November newsletter are accurate.
- To keep the book sales going as they have in the past, we need new volunteers---some to eventually take leadership positions. Letter will go to all patrons on behalf of Friends' needs, from library and Friends' current leadership. We are thinking of informational meetings, an article in the Advertiser, and volunteer after parties to get people involved. If we don't get leadership assistance, we will forego the Fall Book sale this year. Decision on fall sale needs to be made/communicated to patrons shortly after the April spring sale.
- Thriftbooks.com will take the books leftover from the book sale for selling on line. No cost to Friends: Thriftbooks takes their expenses out of profit they make from sales. Books that don't sell are either donated to benevolent worldwide organizations with which they partner, or they are recycled via a zero waste initiative (e.g., turned into insulation) and a percentage of the profits are sent back to Friends. We will partner with them do on trial basis: this will impact our cleanup schedule and set up process.
- DVDs were stolen from their cases during the last book sale; we are trying to work out something to prevent this at future sales.
- DVDs will be sold at \$2 for one and \$5 for a set on Saturday Feb 25 by Friends, during the Library's Film Festival.

Grant Requests:

A total of \$6100 was unanimously approved:

- \$1310 for the Value Line Investment Serials, which are consulted a lot
- \$600 for the books on computers and technology
- \$3,090 for multiple copies of popular titles.
- \$1,100 for fish tank maintenance and supplies

Advocacy:

- Anne Burton will inform us of New York Library Advocacy Day activities on March 1 at the state Capitol.
- Jill, Anne and Lynne are trying to organize car pools from the library. The new state senator in charge of the senate library committee is Patty Ritchie of the 48th district.
- It was suggested that the Friends supply bookmarks to be available at the checkout desk for the get out the vote effort.

Library news:

- The new LED Light Fixtures are in the process of being installed.
- The Town sidewalk construction is going out to bid. The high school has withdrawn from the project, but the library portion remains, as an add-alternate. The sidewalks are planned to start at the high school and continue past the YMCA.
- The Film Festival seating pads have arrived and will be sold for \$10 each at the Festival. Money raised will go towards a new sound system.
- DVDs will be sold at \$2 for one and \$5 for a set on Saturday Feb 25.
- The library is looking for more local vendors for the Farmers' Market.
- Flipster Magazine subscriptions are available on the library website. They're much easier to use than the former digital magazine service, Overdrive.
- We are currently using Pronunciator as our Foreign Language online learning program. We have added Mango through UHLS and will not renew Pronunciator.
- There is a free legal advice service being started up by volunteer lawyers; if popular, it will continue.
- The Library's Strategic Plan is up for approval tonight.
- The Library is now taking credit cards and Friends will meet with them to discuss the possibility of the Friends doing the same, with the assistance of the Library.

Friends News:

- Our need for more volunteers is growing desperate; we are lucky to have the many who put in their time and effort, but we need to plan for succession.
- Lynne distributed the Roles and Responsibilities Guidelines from the Connecticut State Library for discussion at the next Friends meeting. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Library Director, the Library Board and the Friends.

Next Friends Meeting: April 18, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Submitted by Kate Hafner