

FRIENDS OF THE ELYRIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM MEETING

January 6, 2020

PRESENT: Nancy Baldauf, Sharon Evans, Lainey Ganter, Jane Leavell, Maggie LeGlise, Kathy Schreiber, Pam Spence, Pat Worcester

OTHER: Lyn Crouse, Adam Matthews, Jean Sebastian

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes were changed to reflect seven Board members remain. Maggie LeGlise moved to accept the minutes. Pat Worcester seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Phil Lyon agreed to pick up large donations, and did so this week on short notice, filling two cars with approximately 400 books and bringing them into the Taylor Street book sale room where his wife helped unload them onto the to-be-sorted table.

Sharon Evans agreed to deliver November's and December's minutes, which are in the FEPLS mailbox at Main, to Linda Weiss, and will continue to do so monthly.

Jean Sebastian gave us her mailing address for the records.

NEW BUSINESS:

Since we have no possibilities for Friends Board President, Lyn Crouse suggested Celeste Brlas, who was a manager at the library for twenty years and has experience with Friends organizations. She will attend next month's meeting.

Goals: Focus on membership drive for the Friends Board and for membership in general. Lyn Crouse pointed out that we have seven members. The library board only has eight members and they're responsible for millions of dollars. Our objective to reach 12 members is too large.

Friends members pay \$25 to join. In return, they get free admission on the first day of the annual book sale, saving \$5, and we throw the annual meeting, including appetizers and entertainment, which is usually not attended by anyone but Board members. What if we held a preview sale the night before the Thursday opening, allowing Friends members first choice of books. However, dealers many of whom come from out of state or even Canada, would be furious, and they spend a great deal of money on the sale. We would also have to pay sales taxes for the entire year, since this would put us over six days a year.

What if we held several sales a year, paying sales taxes, and did so at Taylor Street? There was discussion about lack of parking at Taylor Street, and whether people would come to that location. St. John Lutheran has the added lure of nearby restaurants and the movie theater, and is familiar from years of the sale there. Taylor Street's book room is much too small for our annual

sale, but it was suggested that we replace the tables with shelving throughout the room and sort directly to the shelves, holding regular sales when the shelves are too full.

Ways to publicize the sale:

- Sharon Evans complimented the latest issue of the library's newsletter, THE NEXT CHAPTER, which goes to 32,000 homes and can focus on the book sale as it approaches
- Ask Amy Higgins of the retired schoolteachers' organization to publicize us as useful to current teachers
- How do we contact Leadership Lorain County? Would they actually have any interest in or be of use to us?
- Put a focus on Friends needing to raise funds for the library, particularly on our support of the Summer Reading Program
- Invite members of Friends to a wine party/picnic at Maggie LeGlise's one-acre home, with members of the Board providing snacks and wine?
- Sponsor a Trivia Night at The Foundry for \$10 which would provide a burger and a soda (with an open bar) and use the event to promote membership in Friends. On the other hand, would people paying ten dollars already want to add twenty-five more to join?

Nancy read the letter we received from the pastor of St. John Lutheran Church requiring us not to display the category sign "OCCULT/METAPHYSICAL" or to cancel the use of their church. Sharon will set up a meeting with the pastor, Jane Leavell, Kathy Schreiber, and herself to discuss what specifically should be eliminated and whether we could instead post a "FOLKLORE/FAIRY TALES" or "FOLKLORE/MYTHOLOGY" category, since we have more books of that type than ghosts, Tarot cards, astrology, witchcraft, and so forth.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The book sale/sales to Maynard/Little Library-Stocker produced \$16,239.79. The net income, after expenses, was \$9,764.01. In December, we had \$13,123.94 in our Huntington checking account.

We will put Maggie LeGlise on the signature card, but we need the Board president to be on it, too.

Nancy moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and Jane Leavell seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Lyn Crouse urged us to attend the City Planning Commissioner's Meeting at City Hall at 11 AM tomorrow, seeking seven variances to the building.

The next meeting will be held in this room on February 3. Sharon Evans will be in London, but Maggie LeGlise will fill in for her.

Jane Leavell moved to adjourn at 7:50. Everyone seconded it and it passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Leavell