

**APPROVED 01/18/2024**  
**FRIENDS OF EPLS KEYSTONE**  
Annual Meeting/Minutes  
Thursday, December 14, 2023, 9:30 a.m.  
EPLS Keystone Branch

Members Present

Kathy Burrer; Linda Chapin; Marcia DeJonge; Vickie Evans; Eileen French; Sylvia Hack; Barbata Harper; Mary Karleskint; Cindy Klinect; Debby Krejsa; Sue Lewis; Marilyn Offenber; Paula Pietch; Jennifer Starkey (Director, EPLS); Iris Tewksbury; Peg Yunker; Wendi Zwaduk

CALL TO ORDER

Wendi Zwaduk, President, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. following breakfast with the Friends of EPLS Keystone.

Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2023 Meeting

Sylvia Hack made a motion to approve the October 19, 2023 minutes. Iris Tewksbury seconded the motion. Vote on the Motion: Unanimous Approval.

REPORTS

President's Report – Wendi Zwaduk

Wendi wished the Friends and Library Staff a very Merry Christmas. Gifts from the officers were distributed at this time to the membership.

Vice President/Membership Report – Kathy Burrer

Kathy Burrer reported that a visitor at the Fall Book Sale joined the Friends. Also, Peg Yunker mailed in her yearly dues. As of today, we have 36 yearly members, 20 lifetime members, and 5 corporate members for a total of 61 members.

Treasurer's Report – Patti Baker

Iris Tewksbury reported for Patti Baker in her absence. The balance at the end of November 2023 was \$16,249.09. This amount includes the total sales from the Fall Book Sale (\$5,843.85) (including raffles and donations).

Sunshine Committee Report – Linda Chapin

A thank you gift basket was given to the library staff this morning. Vickie Evans thanked the Friends for the individual and group cards she received while recovering from her surgeries.

EPLS Director's Report – Jennifer Starkey

Jennifer Starkey announced that EPLS has 3 new Board of Trustee (BOT) members that were sworn in for the new year: Maggie Leglise; Koneake Lawrence; and Scott Serazin. Three of their current BOT members are Lagrange residents: Debby Kroupa; Pat Schrull; and Rhonda Smith. EPLS also has a new Fiscal Officer – Debbie Perkins.

Leading up to the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse, EPLS will hold space-themed programs (history and science during the months from February through April) to entice patrons to learn about the solar eclipse. EPLS will provide 2,000 pairs of viewing glasses to patrons (one per person) that

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participate in a program. On March 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., the Armstrong Air and Space Center will be giving a talk (for all ages) on “Don’t Burn Your Eyes Out”.

This winter season, the Keystone Branch will hold a “Craft Swap” at the library where patrons can bring in craft supplies to exchange. Debby Krejsa mentioned that the Keystone Branch will hold a program called “PCs for People” where they will be collecting old or unused cell phones and computers (anything digital) during the month of April.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Painting Mural Near the Sorting Room – Wendi Zwaduk**

The painting of the mural near the sorting room is complete. The mural features the new and old Keystone Library and historical churches in our town.

**Feedback from the 2023 Fall Book Sale (November 16 – 19, 2023) - Wendi Zwaduk**

Wendi reported that there were plenty of workers for set up and break down for the Fall Book Sale. The LaGrange Hardware Store was gracious to lend us, again, 24 tables to work with for the sale. Almost 500 visitors walked through the door: Thursday – 66; Friday – 201; Saturday – 133; and Sunday – 97. Only 4 of the children’s tickets from the Keystone PTA Read-a-thon challenge were used at the Book Sale for a free children’s book.

Below is some additional feedback from the Fall Book Sale:

Provide categories and boxes for sorting the inspirational books  
More durable bags for purchased books during the sale  
Additional flat pack/fruit boxes to keep books upright and on the table  
Request more tables from the hardware store if possible  
Cash/Check only signs for the sales tables, around the gym, and notices in promotional ads  
Create “Checks Made Payable to Friends of EPLS Keystone” signs for the sale tables  
Material deemed unworthy (dirty, musty, torn, too old to sell) will be pitched  
Rethink times for Saturday and Sunday (reduce time by one hour?)  
Potentially move sale up a week to ease stress of approaching holidays  
Tables for the bibles, Christmas category, and magazines were great

**Feedback from Tree Lighting – Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

Not as many people showed up this year as last year. Wendi did place a timer on the tree. The Grand Valley Chamber of Commerce President donated the star. Wendi stated that it was brought to her attention that the current tree is not as attractive – it is too close to the driveway; it has a split trunk; it is half dead due to bugs. Wendi proposed that the Friends buy a new tree from the tree nursery by spring. Debby Krejsa mentioned that EPLS can be responsible for removal of the old tree. Discussion followed, and the Friends decided to explore this idea further, in January, in making it a better event.

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At this time in the meeting, Sylvia Hack reported that she is working on a plan for the raised flower/shrubbery beds out front. The Friends agreed to help in contributing in the development of it. Debby Krejsa pointed out that the library can let their maintenance crew know ahead of time of the plan so they can help with the mulching.

Feedback on Christmas in the Village – Sunday, December 3, 2023

Kathy Burrer, Mary Karleskint, and Wendi Zwaduk manned the Friends table in the hallway in front of the sorting room during the event. Most of the public activity took place in the gym away from the hallways. At the end of the event, Mary Kay Gates gave the Friends verbal approval to have their table in the gym next year to boost their visibility.

Advertising for the Keystone Library Branch – Wendi Zwaduk

Wendi advertised the Fall Book Sale in the Rural Urban Record (an article and ads), postings on the Friends' Facebook Page, on distributed and posted flyers, on signs, and on the community's electronic sign in the town square.

NEW BUSINESS

Replacement for Treasurer

Marcia DeJonge volunteered to serve as Treasurer this coming year. Wendi Zwaduk will continue as President, and Kathy Burrer as Vice President, for the two-year term 2024-2026.

Thank You Basket for LaGrange Village Staff

A tray of donuts will be given to LaGrange Village Staff in January.

Little Free Library – Mary Karleskint

Mary Karleskint inquired as to the status of repainting the Little Free Library in the town square. The Friends decided to wait until the weather is conducive in the Spring for removal and relocating the Little Free Library in the sorting room for repainting purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Burrer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Klinect seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Unanimous Approval. Wendi Zwaduk, President, adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Karleskint, Secretary (12/30/2023)