

Attendance: Karyn Trumbull, Fran Feigert, David Plunkett, Tim Tolson, Tony Townsend, Peter Manno, Peter McIntosh, Tom Whitlock, Nancy Damon, Ted Magilley, Melissa Dickens, Sharon Heyka, Zac Tolson, Anne Hemenway
Absent: Libby Carpenter, Liza Millett

1. Call to order and invitation for guest comments: President Tony Townsend called the meeting to order at 5:30. There were no guest comments.

2. Approval of September 2017 minutes: Minor spelling changes were made to the minutes and Sharon Heyka moved to approved the minutes. The motion was seconded and all approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: Peter McIntosh reported that there was ~\$140k in checking, ~\$90k in savings. Peter recommends that we reduce our donations to the library from \$150,000 to \$140,000 next year due to tightening in the budget.

Peter reported that due to increases in health insurance costs for 2018, adjustments were made to Peter Manno's salary and schedule of payments in order to keep his health insurance costs to a reasonable level.

Peter provided a review of the book sale proceeds and a comparison over the history of the sale. Revenue has not kept up with the increases in our expenses so we discussed how to increase revenue including raising prices on certain items, and increasing selective media advertising including in the Film Festival brochures.

4. Fundraising: We discussed the pros and cons of Pavilion fundraising. Peter Manno has offered to take over the organization of these events. We agreed it would be worth continuing to do this for another year.

Sharon reported that we raised about \$1000 at the Talbots fundraising event. It was fun and Talbots was very pleased to have us there and would like us to do it again. Sharon offered to participate even after her board term is over.

4. Central Library Renovation: Tony reported that a group met in January to discuss the needed renovation of the Central Library. The Friends would like to help keep it as a priority. Anne Hemenway has offered to lead a group to focus on this. As a reminder, we discussed that a plan for this renovation has been done and it requires a budget of about \$8.5M. JMRL Director, David Plunkett confirmed that the county is aware of the need and sees it as a priority as well. It was agreed that this would be a focus of the Friends efforts for the coming year.

4. Book Sale Director's report: Peter gave us a tour of the Friends space and reviewed general practices and policies. He shared ideas and new strategies being implemented for better use of space and improvements in organization in response to concerns about safety, crowding and other challenges. We discussed the needs for additional volunteers and support for Peter and Zac during the sale as well as for during other busy times of the year.

Peter McIntosh expressed serious concerns about how we are handling the incoming books and being overwhelmed. He has concerns that the changes being made might not be sufficient and that another staff member might be needed. This includes concerns over the numbers of books coming from JMRL that are really just books in need of recycling.

Peter also has concerns about the space being used by Books Behind Bars. It is taking a lot of space and causing some conflict. There is concern that the impact is only going to grow and the payment we receive has not. Peter suggested an additional review of these items after the spring sale.

b. Volunteer coordinator: A volunteer coordinator an option but the right person has not yet been identified.

5. JMRL Director's report: We welcomed the new Director, David Plunkett. He reported that one of the things that the library values that the Friends does is to provide a buffer between the library and disposal of books just to be sure that no "good books" are being disposed of. He shared to current copies of Beyond the Books and Book Page. Both are provided thanks to the Friends. He highlighted a new (as of 2 years ago) program "Winter Reading" This year "The big read" is going to be called "Same Page" - just a new name. Gordon Avenue Library is collecting the bids for the renovations now and work is supposed to start on April 12. It should be completed by May 20. This will also impact the influx of new books that typically comes in right after the sale as well as the meeting of the Friends. David invited us to meet at Central Library on April 19.

6. New business

7. Future Dates

a. Spring Sale – Sat. March 31 to Sun. April 8

b. Member's only sale – Friday, March 30th, 5 to 7 PM

c. Board Meeting – April 19th, 2018, 5:30 PM