

Friends of the Jefferson Madison Regional Library  
Minutes – April 21, 2016

Attendees: Tony Townsend, Bill Davis, Libby Carpenter, Nancy Damon, John Halliday, Tom Whitlock, Sharon Heyka, Peter McIntosh, Melissa Dickens, Peter Manno

Absent: Fran Feigert, Tim Tolson, Krista Farrell, Liza Millet, Charity Haines, Karyn Trumbull, Anne Hemenway, Jane Kulow

1. President Tony Townsend called the meeting to order at 5:30.
2. Minutes from previous meeting were presented. Peter McIntosh moved to approve, Sharon Heyka seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.
3. Bill Davis presented the Book Sale Director's report. The Spring 2016 sale realized over \$95,000. Dealers spent \$24,570. Bag Day (Monday) resulted in 425 bags taken by 145 educators, and 450 bags (\$2,250) by paying customers. The estimated total of books removed on bag day was 16,500. Bill raised the prospect of extending Bag Day to the fall sale as well as spring; discussion concluded the decision to do so was left to the Sale Director. The Books Behind Bars Program had since September brought in \$8669.50 (in donation from Red Light Management) and incurred \$4651.01 in expenses, primarily postage. The net gain is approximate compensation for the books sent to the inmates and consequently not available to the Book Sale. The Friends realized \$62.54 from the Kroger rewards program in which customers can designate a recipient.

The question of distribution of books remaining from the sale was raised. Bulk resellers who had taken books at the end of the Spring sale are no longer interested; the Sale Director will continue to pursue other avenues to reduce the volume of books to be recycled. The need to update the membership database was raised. Peter McIntosh and Tony Townsend added the need to update both hardware and software and do both simultaneously. Bill Davis introduced the new hires, Peter Manno and Zac Tolson (not present). Bill raised the possibility of express checkout at the sale, and additional credit card processing. Tom Whitlock suggested having a floating informal checker as needed rather than a fixed express checkout. Sharon Heyka brought up the possibility of additional membership night processing.

4. Peter McIntosh presented the Treasurer's report. Peter did not yet have complete data from the Spring sale. Peter outlined our funding system; funds raised in the current fiscal year are kept separate, accounting-wise, to be used to fund operations in the following fiscal year. We thus could operate for a year even without the proceeds of a sale, should we be unable to hold

one. Peter did report that 39% of the Spring Sale transactions were credit card, those transactions accounting for 53% of revenue.

Tony Townsend raised the question of making financial figures public in response to an inquiry, and in how much detail. Roundtable discussion followed as to transparency and perception. Melissa Dickens suggested presenting gross figures and letting those interested calculate themselves. Consensus that we should emphasize what we raise and what those funds go toward. Peter McIntosh suggested highlighting the volunteer nature of our efforts.

5. John Halliday presented the Director's Report. He commended the Spring sale and expressed gratitude for the Friends' funding. Wanted to encourage positive feedback to Albemarle Cty. Supervisors for the funding levels approved for JMRL, and how increased funding for salaries has positively impacted retention and professionalism of JMRL staff. Budget at the state level has increased \$18,000. He also called attention to the possibility of greater lobbying effort locally and at state level by the Friends. Local budgets (Charlottesville/Albemarle) are solid. Notes upcoming volunteer opportunities for the Phillip Weber Memorial Run May 28, with proceeds benefitting JMRL, and two Fridays After Five, June 10 checking IDs and in August serving beer. The Summer Reading kickoff is in early June, to which the Friends will donate several boxes of books.

The bookmobile needs to be replaced, and Friends will be asked to contribute. The current bookmobile was purchased with funds from Charlottesville, Albemarle, and the Friends. The new bookmobile will be smaller than the current model, expected cost over \$100, 000. Questions were raised about recouping some funds by selling the current one, but it is expected that maintenance needs make it impractical for a prospective buyer. Central Library is due for a significant renovation, and an effort by the Friends to lobby for funding would be helpful. A bond referendum may be pursued.

6. The Nominating Committee was called upon to prepare a slate of prospective board members. Nancy Damon volunteered to join Tom Whitlock in this task.
7. The dates for the Fall Sale were confirmed to be Saturday November 5 – Sunday November 13, Members' Preview Sale Friday November 4.
8. Sharon Heyka moved to adjourn, unanimously approved.

Recorder: Peter Manno