

Friends of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2024
5:30 pm

Attendance: Proal Heartwell, Bill Schrader, Wendy Craig, Ted Magilley, Pat Dogil, Marty Topel, Jack Hanrahan, Peter McIntosh, Jane Kulow, Stephanie Commander, David Plunkett (JMRL Director), Peter Manno (Book Sale Manager), Austin Conner (Assistant Book Sale Manager)

Call to order: Proal Heartwell called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report: Ted commented that a focus for future book sales would include enhanced cash management. This would involve counting down cash drawers every day and depositing checks in a timely manner. He further reported that we have approximately \$300,000 in checking accounts and \$200,000 in a CD, which will mature in October. He suggested that we take \$100,000 from this CD to buy another so that one CD would mature every six months.

JMRL Director's Report: David noted that he had received a thank you letter from teen patrons at Gordon Avenue regarding the new niche for young adult literature, an effort funded by the Friends. He reported on the programs funded by the Friends for National Library Week, and he commented that two teams of library staffers competed in the annual Wordplay tournament sponsored by Literacy Volunteers. Also, he reported that JMRL had received a grant to buy solar eclipse glasses and that there was significant participation in various "eclipse-viewing" parties at JMRL branches. Finally, David provided a preview of the summer reading kickoff celebrations scheduled for each branch.

Book Sales Manager's Report: Peter reported on the record-breaking nature of the April sale, which earned approximately \$165,000. Members Night garnered \$12,000 and the first day of the sale was very big. He noted that bulk sales were down a bit, as local dealers Heartwood and Blue Whale spent less than normal. It was suggested that the overall bump in revenue might be attributable to the fact that the sale did not conflict with the local public school systems' spring break. Peter expressed his appreciation to Austin for his hard work to the sale, and he also reported that he had met with neighboring merchants who had complained of a lack of parking and blocked access to their businesses. Peter will work with these establishments to ameliorate problems in future sales. He also thanked a volunteer who had purchased additional shelving for the sale. There was discussion among the Board about a one-or-two-day sale between the spring and fall sales, but the consensus was the HVAC system at the Albemarle Square space would not efficiently heat or cool the building in less-temperate seasons. In terms of improvements for future sales, Peter suggested we could create better signage and have more discreet lanes for credit card and cash lines.

Old Business: Board member Jack Hanrahan provided an update on the album sales initiative. Sales on Amazon from December to mid-April garnered \$4,340, an average of \$30.00 per album. Jack noted that Amazon charges a 15% processing fee for their on-line transactions. He informed the Board that he had also established an eBay account, which produced seven orders

in the first seven days, earning \$163.00. As eBay charges only 2% for each transaction, there was a brief discussion about the possibility of using eBay only for album sales. Jack emphasized the need for more volunteers to help with vinyl sales.

New business: Proal thanked Jane Kulow, Ashely Schneider, and Jack Hanrahan for volunteering to serve on the nominating committee. The Board reviewed potential vacancies and the requirements of Board officer positions. The committee will present a slate of Board and officer candidates a week ahead of the June meeting. There was a discussion around membership, which Peter estimates as around 400. Jack reported that at the April preview sale he had gathered 52 information slips from new and old members in which people expressed an interest in volunteering for the Friends.

Announcements: The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.