

**Friends of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library**  
**Thursday, January 20, 2022**  
**5:30 pm**

**Attendance:** Proal Heartwell, David Plunkett, Nancy Damon, Peter McIntosh  
B. Stephanie Commander, Peter Manno, Deborah Willenborg, Liza Millett, Asheley Schneider,  
Grier McCain, Pat Dogil, Bill Schrader, Wendy Craig.

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

**Approval of September Minutes:** The Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter McIntosh, Treasurer, made the following comments on the report he had emailed to all members.

We are ahead in income and anticipating the April Sale will be as successful as the previous. He noted that the expenditures indicated a decrease due in large part to the reduction of library costs during the pandemic, but also indicated that the largest expenditures occurred from March through June.

Figures will remain positive with money held in reserve.

Reminded the Board of the need for a storage safety net should any changes occur at Northside location. A discussion of East Market storage and need to continue to explore all alternatives for storage and book sale locations.

Bill reminded the Board of the benefits of our current lease.

Stephanie questioned the change in the figures for Books Behind Bars. Explanation was the decrease in requests combined with the reduction of volunteers all attributed to COVID restrictions.

Discussion of drop in membership numbers.

**Book Sale Director's Report: Peter Manno:**

Peter reiterated the success of the October sale and the smoothness of operations. He recommended the purchase of additional tables for future sales.

Proal moved that the Board approve \$3,300.00 for the purchase. Bill seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Peter summarized Amazon book sales and discussed improvements. Noted that a dedicated volunteer to the online sales would help. Peter will create a list of specific areas and skills desired and share with the Board.

**JMRL Director's Report: David Plunkett:**

David summarized the transition from Tier I to Tier II at the libraries.

He described the successful distribution of COVID test kits and the termination due to supply shortage at the Blue Ridge Health Dept.

David described the new Beanstalk Ap available for JMRL and its addition to facilitating library participation in reading programs (many supported by Friends contributions). The state library is funding the Ap through September and with anticipated success JMRL will continue the support perhaps with Friends' backing.

Festival of the Book will resume with a hybrid program this spring.

JMRL teen internship and Scholarship will be available again and information will be distributed through the libraries and to the public.

David reported that community support has been ongoing and attributed it to the dedication and work of the library staff.

### **Old Business:**

Discussion – reception/reaction of the film “One Hundred Years of Library Service.”

It is available on the library's YouTube page.

Bill noted disappointment in the film's portrayal of JMRL, specifically the Film's failure to distinguish the establishment of JMRL from earlier library history.

### **New Business:**

#### **Bill Schrader “Learning Live” Report:**

Bill reported on the virtual webinar's focus. He shared several important points presented for consideration:

- Membership should not be considered as fund-raising.
- Book sales encouraged and dominated by older volunteers.
- Interaction/participation between staff and Friends groups should be encouraged in meetings but never exploited in activities.
- It is beneficial to develop a liaison to lobby for Friends' and library funding in political or government settings.

#### **Central Library Renovation Committee:**

David solicited volunteers to serve on the committee. Proal will follow-up with an invitation to members.

### **Announcements:**

Virtual “Love Literary Trivia” Night: February 10

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Board Meeting: April 21, 2022**

Three volunteers for nominating committee