

## Friends of the Library

### Minutes

September 17, 2020

**Call to Order:** Melissa Dickens called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30.

**In attendance:** David Plunkett, Melissa Dickens, Liza Millett, Peter McIntosh, Peter Manno, Nancy Damon, Ted Magilley, Grier McCain, Stephanie Commander, Wendy Craig, Deborah Willenborg, Proal Heartwell, Bill Schrader, Pat Dogil.

**Introduction of guest/prospective Board Member:** Marc Boston is a husband, father of three daughters, and children's book writer. He is originally from Baltimore, and moved here seven years ago with his wife and family from Kansas.

The other committee members introduced themselves to him.

**Approval of minutes of June 25, 2020 meeting.** Proal Heartwell noted that he did attend the meeting, so will be added to the attendance list.

**Treasurer's Report – Peter McIntosh** Both the Friends and JMRL expenditures are well below budget. This was expected and welcomed since it is clear that we will not be able to have our normal Book Sale until Spring of 2021, at the earliest.

Our "cash in the bank" position is strong. We received from CACF a "grant" of \$ 100,000 to replace the lost revenues caused by the cancelled Spring Book Sale. These funds were received in July.

Our Cash on hand is as follows:

Wells Fargo Checking	\$ 167,571
Atl/Union CD	\$ 89,100
Wells Fargo Adv. CD	\$ 36,878
Atl/Union PPP Grant	\$ 13,575
Total Cash	\$ 307,124

There is no listing above for Books Behind Bars (BBB). Two years ago, Mr. Grisham and some literary colleagues gave the Friends \$ 50,000 for BBB. We used \$20,000 of that amount to cover BBB costs during the fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19. We have \$30,000 remaining of those funds to support BBB in the future. This amount cannot be considered by the Board as available to support the Friends or JMRL.

Mr. Grisham donated \$10,000 for BBB last summer for fiscal 2019-20, but Red Light Management has so far not made their pledged donation. Both Peter Manno and Peter McIntosh have sent emails to Red Light asking for an explanation of their interest in continuing to support BBB. The plan for Friend's funding of BBB for 2020-21 will be determined by the response from Red Light.

**Report on storage space and vote on entering lease agreement:** Bill Schrader, Peter McIntosh, Melissa Dickens and David Plunkett have met with the managers of Albemarle Square Shopping Center. An agreement is almost complete for us to rent the former space of the Northside Library, from soon until the end of 2021. The fee will be \$100/month, plus utilities. This will allow us to 1) have donors bring books to Gordon Avenue Library, 2) store them in an outside pod until they have been "quarantined" 3) then move them, using trucks from the library, with library drivers to the large space in Albemarle Square. They can cancel the rental agreement with 45 days notice.

The owners are also amenable to us having an outside, under tent sale there. These details will be worked out later. Our Friends "negotiators" are thanked for their time and hard work on getting this agreement. The Friends voted unanimously to proceed with this plan.

**Library Director's Report – David Plunkett:** David notes that next Monday, Nelson, Louisa and Greene branches will reopen by appointment on a limited basis. Also the other branches are doing drive-up, pick up services, which are gradually being expanded. The forced closings did offer librarians to cull books from the stacks. David noted there is an agreement with a company to take some of these books. The Friends were able to donate a large sum to help with the Nelson County expansion. Plus, David noted that Nelson County residents, with some consultation on fund-raising from Bill Schrader, met their goal of \$500,000!

**Book Sale Director's Report– Peter Manno:** Peter Manno noted that the two pop-up \$5 a bag book sales were quite successful. The first Sunday we made \$800 and the second time we made \$1,350.

At the moment, we will have sales on Sundays September 27, October 11 and October 25. If all goes well, we may continue into November. Categories have been Literary fiction, Popular fiction, Mysteries, with addition of Biographies, picture books and jigsaw puzzles for the second sale. We will add new categories for the next sale. No category was a complete waste, though biographies seemed to elicit fewer buys.

Local used bookstores (Blue Whale, Heartwood Used Books, and Second Act Books have come and have bought \$3,000 so far. We have also sold 40 books online.

**Election of Board Members and Officers:** The nominating committee consisted of Liza Millett, Proal Heartwell, Pat Dogil and Nancy Damon. Pat Dogil reported as follows: Marc Boston was welcomed as a new Board member. Reelected members include: Stephanie Commander, Ted Magilley, Pat Dogil and Grier McCain. New officers will be: President: Proal Heartwell, Vice-President: Bill Schrader, Recording Secretary: Wendy Craig and Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Damon

**Old Business:** Nancy Damon mentioned that there had been previously an idea of forming a committee to do outreach. Included on that committee were Ted, Karyn, Nancy. Marc Boston has previously expressed an interest in becoming part of this group. Proal, newly elected chair, is charged with moving this forward. Peter Manno noted he would like help with publicity.

**New Business:** No new business

**Announcements:** Bill Schrader commended David and all his library staff for being so helpful. Wendy Craig also thanked the library for donating children's books during the summer to give to families coming for the food bank.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 5:30 PM.