Friends of the Ste. Genevieve County Library

Meeting Minutes, Monday, January 14, 2019

The meeting opened at 6:05 pm. In attendance, Jerry Klein, Linda Summers, Dick Fieg, Debbie Kirchner, Carol Shelton, Jodi Ralston and Elizabeth ( Liz) Rudloff.

A motion was made by Jerry Klein to accept the meeting minutes from December 10, 2018, seconded by Dick Fieg and approved by the group.

**Treasurer’s Report**.

Carol Shelton presented the treasurer’s report as follows:

Previous month’s checking account balance was $703.34. Carol issued a check to Jerry Klein for $6.50 for emergency blankets for the Read Me A Story program on December 10. The new balance is $696.84 which includes $313.42 from Scholastic Book sales which will be held in abeyance of possible future billing from Scholastic Books. Carol then called for the annual collection of FOTL dues in the amount of $10/member. She collected a total of $70 which will be deposited with funds collected from used book sales.

**Library Director’s Report**

Liz Rudloff reported the following highlights from the January meeting of the Library Board :

A new security video camera was installed in December in the DVD collection section of the library following the theft of several DVDs the previous month. This area was only partially covered by the previous camera and “blind spots” allowed adequate privacy in this area for the theft to take place undiscovered.

The Library’s 2019 budget has not yet been approved by the County Commission; Liz will attend a meeting at the Commission’s offices on January 17th to present the proposed budget for approval.

The County Commission has approved replacement of the flooring in the Library. Cost will be covered by an allocation from the County Infrastructure Fund. The previous application for a grant for this cost, which was completed and presented by Liz Rudloff in December, has been withdrawn from the pool of applicants for the County Development Fund grant.

The Library Board is working toward the goal of setting itself up as a true Library entity, as advised by the State Librarian, Robin Westfall. Library Board Treasurer Robin Stuppy has been bonded and the Board is applying for their own tax identification number as the first steps in gaining the autonomy needed to operate as a true Library Board of Directors.

The Board voted to renew the Library’s subscription to Ancestry Library.com. They noted after the FOTL had requested this issue be addressed last year, the Board was happy to hear patrons had accessed the website 1500 times in 2018.

Discussion was heard at the Board meeting regarding the upcoming expiration of the Morenet contract in June, 2019. Liz explained the Library currently uses Morenet as a Library database source which includes 8 databases accessible to all patrons of the Library. The Library also has a relationship with EPSCO Host for specific database needs. Liz is working with a representative of EPSCO Host to see if a package can be customized for the Library which would eliminate the need to renew the Morenet subscription. However, Morenet is the “standard” for a progressive library and their contract includes technical support which would be an extra expense with EPSCO Host. Liz will report back next month after the EPSCO Host rep responds with his package.

The Library hosted another video game night in December which is becoming very popular. The Game Night group has also created a Discord (an online message board) which is managed and hosted by Nama Chibitty of the Library staff.

The Pajama Storytime with Santa event on December 14 was a huge success, with 35 children and 20 adults in attendance. The Library staff took pictures of the attendees and emailed copies to them.

The Library is hosting a Rock & Roll Bingo night on January 29th for teens and adults.

The Library staff is working toward offering computer classes to anyone needing assistance with their laptop, phone, ipad, or library computer. Currently, these resources are offered on a one on one basis but Liz would like to build this into a weekly class.

One of the Library computers was replaced last month and one other was repaired. Liz has included 4 new computers in the 2019 proposed budget to slowly replace those computers that continuously need repair.

The Library will be closed on January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Liz will hold a staff meeting that day for teambuilding and to discuss the staff’s initiatives for 2019.

Liz applied for a small grant from the Missouri Historical Society for funds to replace worn equipment in the genealogy department.

**A. Telescope Display and Star Gazing Events:** Dick Fieg stated he will wait to schedule another star gazing event until spring. Liz noted she will invite the St. Louis Astronomical Society to participate in the event with telescope demonstrations and whatever they can provide. Jerry Klein noted there is a new Space Museum in Bonne Terre which is holding its ribbon cutting ceremony in March with a retired astronaut in attendance. Dick will contact the Museum and he and Jerry agreed to visit the “Show Me Space” museum in the coming month and report back to the group. Liz noted Brad Arnold would like to invite the museum to showcase some of their artifacts at the Ste. Genevieve County Community Center.

**B. Scholastic Book Fair:** Debbie Kirchner reported she had no response to her attempts to communicate with Scholastic Books about the accounting of our sales, what (if anything) we owe them and how to bring this event to resolution. At this time, she feels it is Scholastic Books’ responsibility to contact the FOTL. Carol Shelton reiterated she will hold the $313.42 in reserve in the checking account pending any future communication from Scholastic Books.

**C. Local Authors Display and Event:** Jerry Klein reported he identified another local author, Geralyn Klein. Liz noted she recently purchased a local author’s book for the library but she is waiting on approval of the 2019 budget to move forward with purchasing more of the books on Jerry & Joe’s list of local authors’ titles.

**D. FOTL Flag/Jour de Fete Signage:** Jerry noted he spoke to Ron Inman of the Lion’s Club and Mayor Paul Hassler regarding the FOTL’s request to place a sign on the Jour de Fete display board. After much discussion, the group agreed to pursue making both signs for the display and a flag for the flag court near the courthouse. Jerry will bring a sample of materials for the flag to the February meeting for approval by the group. Carol Shelton requested Jerry provide an itemized list of expenses for the proposed project. Linda Summers will provide pictures and dimensions of the current signs on the Jour de Fete display to see if Liz’s contact can create a wooden sign with the FOTL logo. The topic will be further discussed at the February meeting.

**E. Winter Storytime Party:** Linda Summers noted she has scheduled the party for Tuesday, January 22nd at 10:00 am. The FOTL will provide books to be read to the Storytime kids, crafts, games and a snack.

**F. Book Lending Program:** Jerry Klein noted he had worked on book donations last week and restocked the used book sales racks so there are now books to take to the facilities in the Book Lending Program. At his recommendation, Debbie Kirchner agreed to look for better ID stickers for the books. Linda Summers also requested that members mark the books they take to off-site facilities with the labels created for this program which identify the books as “ On Loan from the Friends of the Library”.

**G. New Business:** Jerry Klein presented an excerpt from the St. Louis Post Dispatch which showed the most current New York Times Best Sellers list of books. Liz Rudloff reviewed the list and noted the Library has many of these books either available or on order.

There being no new business to discuss, Dick Fieg made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm which was seconded by Carol Shelton and approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Linda Summers, Secretary