

FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held June 2, 2022

Board Members present: Hilary Veilleux, Norma St. John, Kay Kerr

Friends Members present: Sally Fitzgerald, Carol Johnson-Haywood, Connie Johnson

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order 5:32 pm

The Board welcomed new members Carol Johnson-Haywood and Connie Johnson.

April 7, 2022 FOBPL minutes: Norma motioned to accept the minutes as is, seconded by Sally. All in favor.

Treasurer's report: The CD current balance \$8,743.85, checking account current balance \$7,039.40, for a total of \$15,783.25. Checks were written to the accountant and for tax preparation. A deposit of \$8.56 was from the Amazon Smile program. Sally motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Kay. All in favor.

Old Business

Competition for Dino's name: Chelsey was handling this on Facebook. Since Chelsey was not in attendance, this issue was tabled until next month. Laura forwarded Norma a gift certificate to Legacy book store. This was purchased by Christina Bogat as a prize for the competition, but will be set aside and used at another time.

Sunday Summer Concerts: Some people have signed up to help, but more are needed as grillers and sundae makers. Shift begins at 5pm for set up and everyone is usually done by 8:15pm. Interested people can contact Norma (normabth@aol.com).

Norma is working on food pricing. She will inform Laura, who will print the two-sided menus; the second side is the list of dates and bands.

On Saturday, June 18th 10am volunteers are needed to clean up the shack and grills so they are ready for the first concert.

Pollinator Garden: Clean up of the garden site and the StoryWalk on May 21st went well. Ross Veilleux cut logs to delineate the paths in the garden, as well as completed repairs on the vandalized StoryWalk podiums. Ross and Hilary Veilleux, Sally Fitzgerald, Connie Johnson, and Norma St. John planted the new garden with perennials.

The Friends would like to thank the following people for helping with the garden:

- ❖ Audrey Crowe, Audrey Crowe Landscapes, for input and advice on garden planting
- ❖ Tim Wennrich, Meadowstone Farm, for donating and delivering compost and mulch
- ❖ Holly Hayward, Sugar Hill Botanicals, for donating all the plants
- ❖ Doug Harman, Library Trustee Chairman, for helping with the watering

- ❖ Hilary and Ross Veilleux, Sally Fitzgerald, Connie Johnson, and Norma St. John for all their hard work

StoryWalk: Laura forwarded information and a quote from W&E Baum for plaques that would be installed on each podium. They wrote:

For an outdoor installation we recommend using an acrylic plaque with a brass laminate on the face.

The plaques can have 2 holes or be installed with double face tape and silicone.

19- 3 ½" x 3 ½" plaque will cost \$15.50 each. Engraving is \$.45 per letter with a \$25 minimum per order.

We can cut the plaques and hold them in inventory until they are engraved.

This will save you the shipping costs if you had to return the blank plaques.

After discussion, it was decided to purchase all 19 plaques and have W&E Baum hold them. The first plaque will be engraved right away, in memory of Elaine Stroop, from the Friends. Norma made this motion, seconded by Connie. All in favor.

It was also decided that the giving level for a plaque and up to 25 letters for the dedication would be a donation of \$50 or more. These donations will be used for StoryWalk maintenance. Carol made the motion, seconded by Norma. All in favor.

Laura told the Board that she has asked for two game cameras to be purchased by the Bethlehem Select Board as part of their ARPA grant monies. She will follow up as to when the cameras might arrive.

Library Summer Reading Kick-Off: This program will be on Thursday, June 30th 10am-Noon. The Blue Ocean Society will bring their life-size inflatable whale, Ladder, to the library lawn. Participants will walk inside the 65-foot whale and learn about endangered fin whales. The kick-off will also include participants going on the StoryWalk and seeing the new garden and outdoor space. This program is sponsored by the Friends. Laura will give Norma the invoice for the program. Laura did email Blue Ocean about a discounted price for non-profits, but did not hear back from them. She felt that due to the overwhelming response they received this year from libraries, that the price they charged was not negotiable.

Laura mentioned that the other items for around the garden (tent, tables, benches) are in and will be installed in the next few weeks. Everything should be up and ready for the kick-off.

2024 Solar Eclipse: In preparation for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, WREN is holding a tourism meeting at the Colonial Theater on June 21st. In 2017, the library had an eclipse-watching program that was attended by 200 people, so we need to be prepared for a large turnout. Kay is the point person for this. Kay and Laura plan to attend the WREN meeting.

New Business

Bookmarks: general Dino bookmarks are going out with new library patron cards. 30 new bookmarks, promoting the Summer Reading Kick-off, will be printed for distribution at the circulation desk.

Webpage: Carol said she had looked at the Friends page on the library website. She recommended that there be an online application. She also thought the date of election of the Board could be clearer. All thought these were good suggestions.

Board Vacancy: Hilary announced that Mary Polaski has resigned from the Board. Hilary accepted her resignation and thanked her for all her hard work.

Connie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Norma. Meeting adjourned 6:52pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Clerkin
For Estelle Lafleur