

FRIENDS OF THE PAUL SAWYIER PUBLIC LIBRARY

APRIL 10, 2023

PRESENT

Board Members: Linda Atwood, Mary Lynn Collins, Chris Evans, Dudley Ellis, Donna Farmer, George Fowler, Audrey Gilbert, Judy Goddard, Arba Kenner, Lori Macintire, Judy Martin, Margie Moore, Leah Ritter, Julie Roney, Jean Ruark, Judy Stratton, Pat Thomas, Russell Wright, and Charlene VanWinkle.

Others: Cloyd Stratton

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by President Arba Kenner in the Community Room and via Zoom (see note*.) Roll was taken by Secretary Charlene VanWinkle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the March 13, 2023, Friends Board meeting were sent to members prior to the meeting. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Evans presented the March 2023 treasurer's report (attachment #1). A debit occurred for taxes. One check was written for Lexington Arts (Jazz Festival.)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dudley Ellis gave the membership report. He reported for March 2023, there were 33 new or renewed members. We have 487 members in good standing. Our database contains 2122 contacts. There were 26 renewal notices sent.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Julie Roney presented the March 2023 bookstore financial report (attachment #2). There was a sale on a Sunday the bookstore was closed. Credit card sales amounted to 35% of the total sales for the year.

BOOKSTORE/BOOK SALE REPORT

Judy Stratton reported books for Derby and Mother's Day are now on display. The next book sale event is May 2-6 with flyers available to distribute (attachment #3.) Volunteer sign-ups will happen soon. An abundance of audiobooks and dvds will be in this sale.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Committee –Judy Goddard, Chair, reported April 30th is the scholarship deadline. Several applications received thus far. Hopefully, winners will be announced at the next meeting.

*Due to equipment issues, Zoom became available at this time.

Public Relations Committee – Lori Macintire and Leah Ritter, co-chairs, reported a Friends Table will be on display during the Jazz Fest on April 22, located near the bookstore and the River Room. Bookstore hours will be extended that day; volunteers are needed for both the table and bookstore. Library staff will provide signage acknowledging the Friends as proud sponsors of the Jazz Fest. Jean Ruark shared that children's activities will be upstairs, music outside the library begins at 1:00, the River Room program begins at 4:00, and the library will remain open until 6.

Mary Lynn Collins shared that Josephine Sculpture Park acknowledged our book donation in their newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Cloyd Stratton provided a bulk e-mail update of the free trial of Sendinblue. Trial run seemed to work well with emails received within 5 minutes of being sent. Cloyd was concerned with the email open rate, but it did exceed the average rate. People may not have opened as the Sendinblue label may have been perceived as spam. Cloyd will try to let our contacts know this is our new email system. There were a few bounce-backs and blocks. The service costs \$22 a month if billed annually to a credit card. With this level, 20,000 emails a month may be sent with no limit on number of contacts stored in the system. The Friends Board voted to proceed with Sendinblue as our bulk email provider.

Cloyd Stratton shared that Mr. Lanham has been ill but is recovering. A get well card has been sent. He has provided great services for the Friends including the printing of the bookmarks and various materials.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Director Jean Ruark reminded the Friends of April 22 as the date of the JazzFest. Margie Moore, Youth Services Manager, and Jean attended a State Library Conference last week and have ideas for several future projects. A Library Programming Bus or "Party Bus" similar to what is used in Jessamine County is of great interest and has much potential for the community; staff will be exploring this project.

Eggcited or “Humpty”, the sculpture in front of the library, is a temporary exhibit provided by FrankArts. The exhibit ends in October, and PSPL has been asked to purchase Humpty, but a sale price has not yet been determined. Fundraisers may be attempted to provide part of the purchase cost. There is a great deal of interaction with this sculpture – much more so than the boy and girl sculpture in the lower back lobby.

Pat Thomas, Project Proposal Committee Chair, recommended that the Friends Board review the project funding budget at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING – May 8, 2023, at 5 PM in the Community Room and via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT -The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM by President Kenner.

Submitted by Charlene VanWinkle, Secretary