

Friends of the Chelsea District Library

Executive Board Meeting

May 2, 2015

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:18 am.
- Attending: Sue Whitmarsh, Michele Mullens, Stefanie Dever, Mandy Higgins, Michelle Tuplin, Jennifer Kundak, Betsy Jarratt, John Budinger, Julia Strimer, Susan Coyl

Minutes

- The contents of the April minutes were approved.

Directors Report

- Sue reported for for Linda and Bill based on notes they provided.
- The MLW was the best to date. There were 200 visitors and 75 completed evaluations. There were visitors from Kalamazoo, Toledo, Spring Lake, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, to name a few.
- Lots of positive feedback. Criticisms included certain readings were too long, the old Tree House location was cold and there were a few sound issues. 40% of attendees were from Chelsea, 30% were from Ann Arbor. The rest of the attendees were primarily from Jackson or Detroit. But we did have visitors from as far away as Bay City, and even the U.P.
- MLW plans are already in the works for next year. Thanks to the Friends of CDL who donated \$3000.
- Property tax revenues are up by \$32 million, a return to 2010 levels, but still far away from 2007. This will result in an approximate \$80,000 increase in revenue for library in 2016.
- Community Read is down to four books: Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos, Drinking: A Love Story by Carrie Fisher, Last Night I sang to the Monster by Benjamin Alire Saenz, and Basketball Diaries by Chris Herren. A final decision will be made soon after the communities vote. This years kick off will be tied to Heritage Days Festival in Grass Lake, Saturday, September 12.
- In regards to the Professional Exchange Program, there are 3 weeks until Vidie's arrival. Maureen Nelsen will be Vidie's host. We sent her a care package containing a Michigan Travel Guide book, Our Town, Chelsea t-shirts, and library information. Gary Zenz has been working on raising "carrying around" money for her. So far we have raised \$700. Meet and greet scheduled for 6/1/2015 in the evening.

Chair Reports

Treasurers

- Nancy absent, Sue read report
- A budget report was furnished with the current financials.

- Jennifer Kundak will take bookmarks to the monthly community church breakfast, which ties into our monthly book sale.
- Nancy will write checks this month for the summer programs.
- Julia Strimer discussed stopping the use of the wasteful and environmentally damaging prizes and handouts. Fair Trade Resolution is working with the City of Chelsea and Kevin from Mission Marketplace. She was wondering if the Friends of CDL could work with the Fair Trade Initiative to stop the waste.

Membership

- Michelle Tuplin reported.
- She has drawn up a new membership letter. Michelle will meet with Sue to finalize and send it out.
- Discussed the fact that new Friends need to get the free bag when they sign up. Stefanie will change the info on the website regarding book bags for new Friends.
- Discussed making a few changes to the website. Also, meeting notes are now on the website.
- Lisa Allmendinger from Chelsea update wants to do an article on the Friends. She also wants to highlight the Amazon Smile program. Jennifer Kundak discussed giving Lisa A. an honorary Friends membership.
- Michelle did a comparison of various communities Friends memberships. A common theme was supporting literacy and helping the community. Kalamazoo does an annual Friends newsletter. We discussed the library's annual report mentioning Friends in a section and listing names.
- Jennifer Kundak discussed starting a "Welcome to Our New Friends " on the website.
- In Kalamazoo the Friends sit at checkout and let people know what the Friends are all about.
- Fees vary greatly community to community.
- Discussed doing a brick program and checking with Patti Roberts regarding this. Jennifer Kundak mentioned that Ann Arbor has a paid bookstore manager.
- There was a discussion on what we want to offer our Friends. For example, online sign up for new Friends like Birmingham? Do we want to look at this in the future? Maybe discuss this in our smaller task force. Discussed our current fees. Should we decrease and establish different levels? Betsy suggested that we should make it clear it is an annual membership. Milan has life memberships, \$150. We need a further discussion as it is becoming evident that we should rework the fees.

Hospitality

- Michele reported
- Regarding the staff appreciation luncheon, we really need Friends to attend. We are also going to invite the Trustees.

- Michele discussed increasing the budget to accommodate the caterer. We had almost too many people and felt that it was unfair to the caterer. Currently we budget \$1400, and we will move it up next year when the time comes to fund it.

Book Sale Task Force

- Jan was absent, no one reported.

Old Business

- Regarding Free Little Libraries, Gary is talking to John Hannifan. This is due to Sheri Albertson communicating to Bill that it was a no go. Sheri Albertson has been ignoring all of Sue's communication attempts. We discussed talking to the people in Manchester to see how their program is going.
- Regarding long term planning, Membership will be a part of this. Jennifer Kundak suggested a 3 year plan to keep purpose and structure. We will need a strategic planning session for the years 2016 onward. Discussed the possibility of extending Junes meeting to have a brainstorming session.
- No July meeting. May have August meeting or may combine August and September meetings
- Jennifer Kundak gave an update regarding a Friends of Michigan Library Workshop. Highlights were discussions on long range planning, and would we like to host a more informal, regional alliance, open sharing discussion in November. If Chelsea Friends have an interest Jennifer can help make that happen. It would be very region focused (Dexter, Pinckney, Milan, and Manchester). The state archivist was very interesting. Jennifer will expand on that in her official report.
- Regarding the Fair Trade Resolution, Earth Day should receive recognition. Is this done by the library or the Friends? Working with Frank Hammer on Earth day issues. We want to make kids aware of environmental issues. Fair trade resolution was passed by the city council. Sue, Bill, Karen, and Kevin will work to make the kids aware of fair trade issues.
- Discussed if we can get recycling barrels for the Kids Day kickoff, and make recycling part of the event. We want to avoid plastic and support kids in other countries. We would like to have an Earth Day event sponsored by the Friends.

11:30 adjournment