

Bandon Library Friends and Foundation

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Cathy Larcom-Johnston (Vice-President), Linda Hill (Secretary), Lorna Logan, Karen Thomas, Gaia Riverwood-Brown, Christine Kingsbury (Library Director), via Zoom were Megan Maloney (President), Sabrina Johnson (Historian), Maureen Haggerty and Horty Joyce. Attending as guests were Karl Berry, Ruthie Painter, Allen B. and Steve Friedland.

Previous Minutes: (Cathy)

Linda Hill MOVED to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2022, as written. Karen Thomas SECONDED. Motion passed unanimously.

Library Director's Comments: (Christine Kingsbury)

Christine reported that library programs are going well. A Chess Club has been started successfully, and meets every Thursday, with as many as 36 people showing up. She is pleased that teens are becoming involved in this activity. A Heart Health presentation once a month in the month of February was given by Stephanie Polizzi of OSU Extension Family & Community Health. Shoreline Education Awareness (SEA) gave a presentation this month, and 52 people attended. The group plans to do a presentation each month. The Book Club is going well, as is Storytime, in which the library partners with Washed Ashore and STEAM. There are ongoing computer classes, and Bandon IT is planning to give an Apple lab as a drop-in program.

A Portland duo has been engaged to give a free classical guitar concert in the Sprague Theater April 22 at 7 PM. There was a great response to the Celtic Harp concert earlier, with 75 to 80 people attending.

The Self-Checkout system is almost ready for public use. The staff is currently working out minor issues with both the program and the gate.

Christine also commented that the Lifetime members donation this year, focusing on the materials collections, is helping enormously to round out all sections. There has been a great patron response, and the library is very grateful for this gift.

Christine is beginning to work on the summer reading program. This year the theme will be "Find Your Voice" and will focus on the arts. There is the possibility of including a ukulele workshop under this umbrella.

Cathy asked if there will be a project for Valentine's Day this year. Last year there was an activity for patrons to make valentines to deliver to citizens. Christine was not sure about that project

yet.

Christine got a quote for almost \$5,000 a year for insurance for the RFID project. She has talked to the director at North Bend Library and found that they have a policy which only covers what they are required to. Some things are necessary to maintain software. Christine indicated that she will connect with other libraries to figure out the best path forward. Cathy thought that perhaps this could be covered by a special fund in future. The system itself is a necessary step forward. All the libraries in the system will eventually need it, Christine noted, and she is confident that in the long run it will be a huge benefit. The smaller libraries are being furnished with one pad each by the county district. A discussion ensued about the allocation of Coos County Library System funds.

BLFF Board Vacancy Election: (Megan)

The Board voted unanimously to fill the vacant position with Dennis Hitchcock, who agreed to serve if elected. Megan noted that we look forward to having Dennis as an official member of the group. He couldn't make the meeting but hopes to be in Bandon by summer.

Donations by Hitchcock and Montalbano: (Megan)

Megan reported that Jim Montalbano had donated \$3,000 for children's books. Dennis Hitchcock had given a matching \$1,000 in recognition of his late brother's love of libraries as discussed at a previous meeting.

Historian's Report: (Sabrina)

Sabrina reported that she is continuing to work on the archives. She asked that if members wish to add to the historical binders, to please let her know. She also suggested a fundraising idea: a "Blind Date With a Book." This is something other libraries and bookstores do. The idea is to wrap a book in brown paper with a brief description and offer it for sale. Cathy suggested including several of these both in the Never Ending and in the other book sales.

Treasurer's Report:

Tracy was absent, and the board decided to wait until the next meeting to vote on her report.

Art Gallery: (Cathy for Tracy)

Although Tracy was absent, she had mentioned various pieces of art that people have in the past donated to the library. Cathy said, if there is a possibility that any of these pieces are sold, the monies received will not be considered raised by the BLFF. It would be a Library Board activity, funds going directly to the library.

Lifetime members club: (Cathy)

Cathy reported that this year the total raised was \$5,250. As the desired amount was \$4,800,

Cathy considers this a success. The decision was made to make the donation for books and split the amount between Children's, Young Adult and Adult categories. She said that this was an easy fundraiser to conduct and that everyone had donated promptly.

Silent auction: (Cathy)

The auction was a success. There were 48 lots, and the total raised was \$942. This year, Denise Frazier has volunteered to set up the auction and pack up the books at the end with Cathy's guidance. October 24 through November 13 are the projected dates. Cathy said that fallout from the pandemic has prompted her to consider this as an alternative to the Holiday Sale.

Never Ending Book Sale: (Cathy)

The amounts raised to date for this fiscal year: July-December \$1,933.80; October \$377.80; November \$302, December \$346. Karl inquired how these totals compare to previous years. Cathy responded that it has been lower than previously raised, and that the lower foot traffic caused by patrons' reluctance to return in person to the library has contributed to this. Megan and Cathy are working on advertising the NE more extensively. Cathy had suggested a reader board, but even something simpler would be a good idea. She will be working with Megan on various ideas to improve this sale. She added that she thinks perhaps regular book sales might be a thing of the past.

Lorna asked about the date for the Summer Sale. Cathy said that August 4 and 5th, with setup on the 3rd, will be the definite dates. The Sprague Room is reserved, as are July 1 and Sept 2 for the Itty Bitty sales.

Karl brought up the question of advertising these sales on the library Facebook page. Maureen said she will put them up on the BLFF page. Megan has been advertising all the book sales on the FB page. Christine also posts them on the Bandon Library page.

Library Advisory Board: (Karen)

Karen reported that the board continues to review the protocols for the library.

The Storyboard project is still pending, as it requires the city to install the boards in the park.

Book Club: (Karen)

The Book Club has been meeting once a month since March. Between 10 and 20 folks regularly attend. Karen reported that she is experiencing great cooperation with the library staff in getting books ordered from other libraries, and she thinks it is a great example of how smoothly things can run. Books have been chosen through June of this year. She thanks the BLFF for

buying a new teapot. She wanted to mention BIG (Bandon Inclusivity Group), who have put together a book club. They are renting the Logan Room with Zoom coverage. Karen asked if there might be any interest in sponsoring that book club. Maureen remembered that there had been some rancor in the past because the library would not sponsor a particular book club. It was thought at that time that that would cause a loss of revenue. Cathy thought that we would have to look at bylaws, and she brought up the issue of the group being open to all people. Cathy will get Megan's input on this. Maureen reinforced that the possibility would need to be considered very carefully to ensure that there is no rancor. Karen observed that BIG is specifically geared to societal issues.

Newsletter: (Megan)

Megan wanted to remind the board that Eunice needs articles for the newsletter by next week! Events, or library experiences, sharing a favorite literary cartoon, a book review on a recently read book, acknowledging a library staff member or volunteer—all these are good possibilities. Maureen would like any revisions to the mailing list by next week.

Publicity: (Cathy for Megan)

Megan continues to get the word out about events on the Facebook page. She also puts up flyers at local grocery stores, COC visitors' center, etcetera.

Other Business:

There was a brief discussion about using Zoom. Zoom members found it hard to hear what was being said in the room. (Linda will check with Cody or Christine to make sure that it is being activated correctly before the next meeting.) Lorna noted that using the Zoom was a good learning experience. It was agreed that we will be better at this in the future. Lorna also suggested that perhaps we could advertise in the newsletter that future meetings will be on Zoom. Maureen said Aaron from Bandon IT will be doing a Zoom class.

Cathy would like to see board members better prepared for coming to the quarterly meetings. She suggested that perhaps committee meetings could be held separately to work on various projects.

Best wishes were sent to Horty and Megan, hoping they will soon be back on their feet.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25th, at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

