

## **Friends of the Horsham Library Board Meeting Minutes June 28, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Robinson at 7 p.m. Board members attending: Lynn Robinson, Catherine Jabusch, Carol Overvold, Carol Wisdom, Carl Meixsell, Jean Marie Bliss, and Maureen Reichl. Guests: Marie DeRatto, Deanna Martin (Master Watershed Steward) and Alan Offermann (Master Gardener) also attended.

### **Regina Vesely's Report**

1. Café book sale proceeds are \$1241.
2. Summer Reading – There were approximately 300 attendees for the kick-off event. Daniel Tiger appeared and was available for photos. Bags and information were handed out. Luckily, the weather cleared just in time to use the new covered outdoor patio space.
3. Some of the Summer Reading Programs to date: Mad Science and Eyes of the Wild.
4. Other programs include 3 story times each week, Teen Art Afternoon, Rock Painting (an evening art program), Mocktails and Quizzo (Adults). Check the Library website and Facebook for photos and additional information.
5. To date, the Library pass (funded by the Friends) for Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve has not been received.
6. The Library of Things is very popular.

### **The Fine Free Proposal**

Regina is suggesting that the Friends partner with the Library to transform it into a "Fine-Free Library". Current fine-free libraries in Montgomery County include Cheltenham, Lansdale, Norristown, Narberth, Upper Dublin, Upper Merion, Upper Moreland, and Wissahickon among others. The current fines in the Horsham Library are \$.30/day for adult books and \$.20/day for children's books. Museum pass fines are \$5 per day and Library of Things fines are \$1 per day. DVD fines are \$1/day.

Going fine-free is seen as an excellent public relations policy for both the Friends and the Library.

To date, the proceeds from the café book sales have been assigned to the Friends to support their efforts on behalf of the library. For example, the Friends cover all the costs of the Summer Reading program. In order to compensate for loss of revenue created by eliminating fines, the Library proposes that the revenue from the café book sales up to the amount of \$10,000 be turned over to the Library's operating budget. Any amount over \$10,000 would be allocated directly to the Friends.

Regina asked that the Friends consider this proposal and bring their comments, questions, and decision back to her in a timely manner.

### **Approval of the May minutes**

A motion was made to approve the May minutes. It was made by Carol Overvold, seconded by Jean Marie Bliss, and approved by all present.

### **Lynn Robinson Topics**

1. Working on December dates for the Ambler Station Singers.
2. Met with the President of the Warminster Library Friends, Adrienne Clark, in regard to organizing a round table comprised of Presidents of Friends groups in surrounding communities. This is something that was done in the past.
3. Resolution of request from a Cub Scouts Pack for the Friends to be their Charter Organization. Lynn, Maureen Reichl, and Catherine Jabusch participated on a Zoom call with Milt Kunz and other members of the Scouts leadership team to further advance our knowledge of the responsibilities we would be assuming if we did agree to be the charter organization. This information was shared with the Board. Catherine also provided feedback from the PCBL, our umbrella organization. Two factors were identified as negatives in the Friends agreeing to be the charter organization. One is that we have limited personnel, and the other is that agreeing to support another organization is contrary to our own mission statement. Jean Marie Bliss made a motion for the Board to decline the request to be the charter organization for the Cub Pack. It was seconded by Catherine Jabusch, and approved unanimously by all present.

### **Treasurer's Report - Catherine Jabusch**

Catherine attended a presentation by a CPA at a Horsham Connected meeting. Per Catherine, based on Pennsylvania guidelines, we do not have enough money coming in and out of our treasury to require an audit.

### **Membership – Carl Meixsell**

Carl sent a thank you acknowledgement to a new member, Tom Southard.

### **Mothers' Day Plant Sale – May 13, 2023**

The plant sale was a success. This has been an excellent source of revenue over the years. Carol Wisdom was the lead. She suggested that we advertise future sales on the Patch.

## **OrgelKidsPA**

This was a second program of the successful Build a Pipe Organ program first presented in 2022. One slight glitch was parents registering themselves as participants even though they were just accompanying their participant children. This is something to be aware of for future programs of any kind that are geared to an audience of children as it can skew the actual number of participants.

## **Future Book Sale**

We will determine a date for a late summer/early fall book sale at our next meeting.

## **Horsham Day – June 3**

Marie DeRatto was the lead and stated that the group of volunteers did excellent work. The mug game returned and was very popular. Books were given as prizes, and the supply of prize books ran out as did the supply of book coupons. We should have more children's books at any future event featuring this game. The kids ended up playing for candy, and that was popular as well!

## **Spring Celebration for English Learners**

This event at Hallowell was open to the entire school district. It was very successful. Thanks to Carol Overvold for her leadership. She attended the event and shared photos on Facebook. The Friends donated numerous books for the participants. Focusing on English as a Second Language, it will have a repeat event in the fall.

## **Pollinator Garden Presentation by Alan Offermann**

Alan Offermann, who holds the designations of Master Gardener and Master Watershed Steward (through Penn State), presented a proposal to re-design the traffic circle at the entry to the library into a pollinator garden. (Pollinators include moths, flies, beetles, wasps, and birds). The area in question is currently planted only in grass. It could be re-designed and planted as a self-sustaining pollinator garden featuring native plants

The process would include site preparation; the grass would have to be removed. There are various options to do so ranging from use of a professional landscape company to the cardboard covering method. Once the grass is removed, it could be planted with native plants which ideally would not require excessive watering and would be perennial in nature. Any plans to do this would require approval of the Township Library Board and the Horsham Township Council. There would be an expense which would vary based on the methods employed. It could be substantial.

Due to time constraints, discussion was tabled for a future Board meeting.

**DATE CHANGES FOR BOARD MEETINGS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

***The July Board Meeting is July 19 at 7 p.m. in the library.***

***The August Board Meeting is August 2 at 7 p.m. in the library.***

A motion to adjourn was made by Carol Overvold, seconded by Lynn Robinson, and approved by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Reichl

Recording Secretary