

Friends of the Horsham Library Board Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023

This meeting was the Annual Meeting open to all members in addition to Board members. The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Robinson at 7 p.m. Board members attending: Lynn Robinson, Catherine Jabusch, Carl Meixsell, Carol Overvold, Carolyn Kushner, and Maureen Reichl. Other attendees were Marie DeRatto, members Jill Etter and Ellen Flanagan, and Jane Fabey.

The format for the Annual Meeting was structured around a presentation by Lynn Robinson that included contributions by all the Board members present.

Lynn expressed thanks to Library Director Regina Vesely for her ongoing support and that of her staff for the Friends and our events. Lynn described the relationship as mutual camaraderie.

Regina Vesely's Remarks

Regina thanked the Friends Board for its efforts and accomplishments in support of the Library. Highlights of items and events totally supported by the Friends on behalf of the library include:

- Complete support of the Summer Reading Program for all ages including adults. Activities include live programs such as Adventure Aquarium, Adult Improv, Adult painting, Story Times, Free Bike helmets, a Kona Ice Party, and raffles and prizes
- The theme for next summer's program is Adventure Begins at Your Library
- Items for the new Library of Things; some items are an electric drill, an ice cream machine, novelty cake pans, a wireless scanner, a knitting kit, board games, and a food vacuum sealer. Additional items will be added from time to time.
- Museum passes which can be checked out for 3 days and offer free admission to a select group of area museums.
- Movie days: this year there were 12 movies for adults and 4 for children. Popular films include 80 for Brady, The Fablemans, and Elvis. A popcorn machine purchased by the Friends provides free popcorn, and the movie license is paid for by the Friends.

Books sold from the donated stock in the café resulted in income of around thirteen thousand dollars this year.

Minutes

A motion to approve the September 13 minutes was made by Carol Overvold, seconded by Catherine Jabusch, and approved by all present.

Highlights, Updates, and Important Events of the Past Year – Lynn Robinson and Board Members

Treasurer's Report – Catherine Jabusch

Catherine Jabusch provided detailed and comprehensive reports regarding the Friends' financials. A comparison of 2019 to 2023 financials show that we have recovered from the dip in our finances that occurred during the months the library was in reduced activity due to covid. This year is on track to surpass the income we achieved in 2022. The bulk of our revenue, 85%, is realized from book sales which include the café books, special occasion book sales, and sales to companies such as Better World Books. Most of our expenses, 88%, are for things that directly benefit the library. The Summer Reading Program is our largest expenditure.

Membership – Carl Meixsell

We currently have 11 Board members and 10 additional active members. Active members are those who have paid the \$15 annual membership dues.

Our annual dues for 2024 should be paid by the end of December 2023. Dues can be put in a sealed envelope marked "Friends of the Horsham Library" and given to a Circulation Desk staff member. Those envelopes are to be placed in the Friends' Drop Box in the library staff office/workroom.

Presidents of Friends Groups Meeting – Lynn Robinson

Approximately 10 people attended from various libraries in Bucks and Montgomery counties. Most libraries do book sales tailored to their specific needs. One interesting example is the New Hope Library where the book sale is continuous all summer to take advantage of New Hope being a tourist destination. Some other examples of Friends' fundraising include holiday gift wrapping, a quilt raffle, and cookie sales.

OrgelKids Build a Pipe Organ Program – Carol Overvold

Vincent Ryan did an encore set of 3 sessions of this popular program for children and parents. There were 60 participants. The OrgelKids program works with the children to build and play a pipe organ in just under an hour. Simmons Elementary teacher Bridget MacFarland contributed to setting up the program.

Museum Passes – Maureen Reichl

The Friends fund the museum passes. Each pass can be checked out for 3 days; there are no reserves and no renewals. Each museum sets its own agenda for number of

people and composition of the group admitted. It is possible to search the library's online system to check availability. A tutorial video can be found on the Friends' website.

Additional Highlights – Lynn Robinson

- Past Perfect Data Base – funded by the Friends, it can be accessed either from the library or from a home computer
- Staff Appreciation Lunch
- Spring Celebration for English Learners in cooperation with the Hatboro-Horsham School District
- An Earth Day program in conjunction with Penn State Extension
- National Friends of Libraries Week
- Horsham Day
- Spring Egg Hunt
- Mothers' Day Plant Sale in conjunction with a book sale
- Horsham Connected
- Author presentation by Wendy Stanley in April 2024
 - A Book Sale Everyday – books on display for purchase in the library café.
 - Use of Sign-up Genius to attract and schedule book sale volunteers.
- Larger book sales often in conjunction with sales of plants or donated jewelry
- A Meet and Greet open to the community to introduce the Friends
- An annual meeting open to all members
- Special programs such as the Ambler Station Singers, December 16 at p.m

Fund Raising Activities – Catherine Jabusch

- Corporate Matching Gifts
- Donation Jar

- In Memory Of and In Honor Of contributions
- Dues
- Books, Plants, Jewelry, and Concessions sales
- Café book sales – “A Book Sale Every Day”
- We have added Pay Pal and Venmo for our sales
- We are collaborating with charity assessment organizations such as Candid, Charity Navigator, and Benevity

Organizational Improvements – Marie DeRatto

A Processes and Procedures Manual to provide process information and documentation for operational and organizational activities was created. Topics include governance, content management, and operational activities. It is a living document and can be updated or expanded as necessary.

Friends Website – Marie DeRatto

Our website, www.fhlib.org, is now a year old. The goal is to keep it current and refreshed in terms of photos and content. We have had an excellent response to the section on becoming a volunteer.

Book Donations – Carol Overvold

We appreciate the people who donate gently used books; there are guidelines for donated books to be accepted. The books are sorted with the help of teen volunteers with supervision. Many thanks to Stephanie McKenna from the library staff for her knowledge and help in displaying café books. The goals for the café book display are to keep stacks fresh, continue eye-catching themed displays, and promote A Book Sale Every Day.

Ongoing Discussion Topics and Action Points

- How to grow the Friends’ membership
- Expanding the Friends’ social media presence; currently we are on Facebook and X (former Twitter)
- Possible involvement with the Horsham Business Association (successor to the Chamber of Commerce)

Upcoming Events

December Holiday Book Sale – December 6 (set-up), 7, 8, 9, and 11 (clean-up)

In addition to books, we will also sell plants and jewelry. There will be a raffle with baskets of books as prizes. There is a pre-sale event on the evening of December 6. Catherine Jabusch will head this evening event.

A children's book author will participate with a reading at some point in the sale. The library is coordinating this.

Ambler Station Singers, December 16 at 2 p.m.

The next Board meeting is December 13, 2023 at 7 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Reichl, Recording Secretary