

Minutes
Friends of the Osceola Public Library
1/8/2014

Present: Barb Wetzel, Mary Clare Huberty, Sherry Hanson, Carole Nienabor, Glenna Tack, Marian Quinn, Kathie Nelson, Maureen McElrath, Merry Vinette, Ann Marie Gaus, Diane Moser, Marcia Dressel, Kelly McBride

Call to Order – President Barb Wetzel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

- **Introductions** – Ann Marie Gaus and Diane Moser, members of the newly formed Mill Pond Learning Foundation were introduced to the Friends.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Kathie provided the Treasurer's Report for December as well as an additional report with a summary of the year 2013. Treasurer's Reports were approved unanimously.
- **Minutes** from previous meeting were approved.
- **Mill Pond Learning Foundation** – Ann Marie gave a brief update on the current membership of the Foundation, then reported on the recent activities of Foundation members regarding the action plan for picking up the new library project. As a matter of "due diligence" the Foundation is looking at the previous work done on the project, and asking questions about what has changed since that time, as well as addressing any areas of concern, then or now. It was decided that the feasibility study should be redone because of the amount of time since the last report, and the number of significant changes since that report was done. Before taking on a potential capital campaign for the library portion of the imagined new facility, prospective local donors need to be talked with to determine if they would support the project at this time. The Foundation is asking that the Friends contribute the initial seed money needed for a new feasibility study. The estimated total cost for the study would be in the \$15,000 - \$25,000 range, and the Foundation would like the Friends to contribute the first \$5,000 for the project, if possible. Glenna brought up the subject of the previous "friends and family" campaign, and that there might still be some monies that had been committed, but not collected, because the previous project stalled. It is unknown what those commitments might be, but everyone agreed it would certainly be worth going back through the records and determining what commitments might be drawn upon for the project restart. There was a general question and answer period before Ann Marie, Diane, and Marcia left the meeting so the Friends could discuss the request.
- **World Book Night** – April 23. At this point in time, Quinn does not know of anyone who has signed up to deliver books on World Book Night. That doesn't mean no one has, just that no one has notified Quinn of their participation. Though this is not an official Friends event, we have tried to publicize it through the Friends.
- **Library updates** – Kelly told the Friends about an upcoming event that she would love the Friends to participate in. On Sunday, January 26, there will be an Un-Party – an event where volunteers would help alphabetize, clean, and organize in the library. The books are out of order on the shelves, the library needs a thorough cleaning, and some areas need to be reorganized. Volunteers are asked to bring general cleaning supplies and whatever refreshments they would like to contribute to this group effort to spiff up the library. Maureen noted that she will be out of town during this time, but volunteered to store several boxes of Friends materials in her garage, to open space for library use.
- **Library Legislative Day** – is February 11, 2014. That is the day groups of library supporters are asked to join a trip to Madison to talk to legislators about the importance of adequate funding for state libraries. (This is an annual event sponsored by IFLS, and members of the community are strongly urged to attend). Barb & Kelly. are both planning on attending.
- **Book Storage** – Thanks to Nancy Johnson who has kindly offered to store these items for the Friends. There is now open space in the storage unit for more donated books.

- **Act 150** - Barb reminded members that it is highly recommended that individuals who are supporters of the library talk with county supervisors about the need for additional funding. Citizen input is very influential!
- **Thanks to Mary Clare and Sherry** for their personal contribution for purchase of a brand new chair for the redecorated story time area!
- **Tracking Volunteer Hours** – Maureen requested that Friends members keep track of volunteer hours in 2014, and notify Maureen of those hours in whatever way makes the most sense. For those that volunteer services on an ongoing basis, an email each month with total hours for the month would be greatly appreciated. If e-mail is not practical, a signed note mailed to the Friends, or dropped off at the library will also suffice. For those that generally just volunteer at organized events, a sign up sheet asking for those hours will be available at each Friends event. As discussed in earlier Friends meetings, this is important information to track. It can tell potential donors how much the community is involved in Friends of the Library, and can potentially influence monies donated through foundations and other fund raising efforts.
- **Discussion** regarding the request for funds from The Friends for a new feasibility study -. After significant discussion in the group, a motion was made to authorize \$2000 as seed money to the Mill Pond Learning Foundation for the study. Motion was carried by a 5 to 4 vote. While there was concern expressed among the members regarding previous monies that had been extended for a less than satisfactory result, it was also noted that the Friends purpose is to support the library in the best way possible. While the amount approved at this time was not as much requested, the Friends are open to discussing future requests as may be needed.

Barb adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Next meeting of the Friends of the Osceola Library is **Wednesday, February 12, 2014** at 5:30 p.m. at the library. **All Friends are encouraged to come!**