Friends of Peninsula Community Library

Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, April 20, 2022

The meeting, held in the Community Room of PCL, was called to order by President Mary Kennedy at 1:00 p.m.

**In attendance**: Nancy Davy, Marcia Decker, Becky Dykstra, Nora Francis, Mary Kennedy (President), Gladys MacGuire, Madelyn Ryan (Vice-President), Vicki Shurly (Library Director), Nikki Sobkowski, Robbin Stott (Membership Chair), Lisa O. Taylor, Nancy Tucker (Secretary), Michele Westcott (Treasurer), Molly Wright.

**PCL Director’s report:**

* Books with the Boathouse fundraiser was a sellout event. Once again, it was a take-away event. Doug Kosch, owner of the Boathouse, donated the meals and wine. Ticket sales generated $7,680. The silent auction associated with the event is expected to earn several thousand more. Meal pick-up was in the PCL parking lot, run by the PCL Men’s group.
* Spring break was very busy. Visitors saw the PCL Facebook postings and came in. Over 120 craft bags were given out, as well as some in-house crafts being done.
* The Peninsula Township Fire Department Emergency Team offered a great program on what to do in an emergency until help arrives, how to use the AED, and how to know when to call 911. This summer they will return with trucks and equipment to do Summer Reading Club program for kids, with water fun afterward.
* Storyteller Judy Sima will be at the library on April 28 at 7 p.m in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Judy will share stories in her mother’s voice about encounters with the Gestapo, Kristallnacht, escape from Germany to the USA and adjustment to a new life. After the storytelling, Judy will offer conversation starters to encourage audience members to talk about their own parents.
* The outdoor memorial signs on the building are not holding up to the weather for the second year in a row. Image 360 will be replacing them with polymer signs that look very much like the original wooden ones. Many thanks to Image 360 for standing behind their work.
* The flag outside had to be replaced. Strong winds this year had reduced it almost to shreds. We had to wait a little while, but the replacement is American made. Bay Supply removed the old one, accorded it proper respect, and hung the new one.
* Room reservations for meetings and events are being accepted once again for the Neahtawanta Room and the Community Room. The Coffee Bar will reopen in a few weeks.
* FUN FACT about PCL: the very first community library on Old Mission was housed for 51 years in the parlor of an old Victorian Farmhouse on Center Road. The house no longer exists, but the farmer who now owns that land remembers going in before it was burned due to decay and said there were bookcases and a harp case so sheathed in moss that it was almost like being in a storybook.
* March statistics: Circulation March 2022: 2432 + 37 manual checkouts, March 2021: 2842. New library cards: 13. Programs: 20. Volunteers: 8 people, 23 hours of time. Program participants: 290. Website hits: 1765. Reference questions: 360.
* The memorial tree has been replaced and the new bench (courtesy of FPCL) is in place. A large planter will soon be on site.

**Review/Approve Minutes**: Secretary Nancy Tucker pointed out that, in addition to having printed minutes available at the meeting today, minutes of the last meeting are posted in the Friends section of the PCL website and available for anyone’s perusal at any time. The minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Michele Westcott explained how the new financial records system is set up and gave us color-coded handouts to explain our current standing. The new system was pronounced very clear and easy to follow. Our bank balance at the end of the first quarter is $27,289.90, much of that left from last year. At this point in time, our expected committed expenditures for this year will be approximately $19,350, leaving us $7,939.90. Obviously, we will continue fund-raising this year, and there also may be additional projects that need funding from Friends. However, right now, we feel confident.

**President’s Report:** A shout out to Nora Francis and Lisa Taylor for the excellent work on the shelves across from the circulation desk that are designated for Friends. They look really good. The suggestion was made to post a picture of the shelves on our section of the PCL website. It was deemed a good idea and will be done.

President Mary Kennedy talked about the Bayshore Marathon (May 28th) and asked us to share info with our friends. We currently have about 26 volunteers and we could use a few more.

Becky Dykstra talked about the Art Fair which she is chairing. The Art Fair will be held on September 24, 2022, from 10a.m. to 4 p.m. Artists will pay $35 for a 6 ft table. According to Becky, we can accommodate 22 tables—2 in the entry, 2 on the front porch, 4 in the carriage house, and the rest in the community room. We presently have 5 artists who have paid for tables, plus 5 that have asked for applications. A sign about the Fair is being designed by Becky and Mary Morgan that will be posted in the library. Additional signage may be needed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Membership Chair Robbin Stott gave the following report:

* For the first quarter, our number are 28 individual members, 48 household members (96 people), 6 new lifetime members (total of 42 Lifetime memberships). This gives us 166 members.
* Of those numbers, brand new memberships are 9 individual memberships, 20 (40 people) household, 4 Lifetime members. This gives us 53 new members for this quarter.
* One individual and one household membership (3 people) paid for a 2022 membership in late 2021. In the future, all checks will be held to the new year.
* Reminders will be sent to people who were Friends in the past, but who haven’t paid dues for 2022.
* For comparison, total members for 2021—214, 2020—191.

**Book Sale:** Book Sale Chair Marsha Decker reminded us that donation days are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 4-6 p.m. People continue to bring boxes of books to donate. The books are sorted and organized and re-boxed to go the township for storage. At this point, boxes with handles, the banker box type, are needed. The book sale will be August 12-20.

**Online book sales:** Michele Westcott explained that our Tiny Cat online book collection has sold $104 so far. We will need to publicize it a bit more. Instructions for use are on the PCL website’ Printed instructions will be placed on the Friends shelf across from the circulation desk.

**Old Business:**

**Summer Solstice Picnic** has been confirmed for June 21st. We will gather from 5-7p.m. on the library lawn and front porch. This is a BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic). Happy Time Banjos will be playing. Ice cream will be provided. This will be publicized via the library newsletter and possibly the township newsletter. Information will be sent to Vicki to get out. Flyers may also be posted. A motion was entertained to designate up to $600 for picnic funds. The motion was made by Madelyn Ryan and seconded by Nora Francis. By unanimous assent, the motion was approved.

Discussion was continued on contributing to funding a generator for the library. A generator makes sense because of the multiple power outages we have on the Peninsula, both winter and summer. If it has power during an outage, the library can serve as a warming/cooling station, a place to charge electronic devices, a gathering place for residents who do not have power. Thus, the work of the library can continue. The cost of a generator is a little over $20,000. A motion was entertained to contribute $10,000 to the purchase and installation of a generator. The motion was made by Michele Westcott and seconded by Nora Francis. By unanimous assent, the motion was approved.

On behalf of the Library Board of Directors, Nikki Sobkowski thanked us.

**New Business:**

It was suggested that we add language to the online library calendar about pick-up times for the online book sale. Library Director Vicki Shurly said it could be done. Michele Westcott will craft the language needed and get it to Vicki’s staff.

It was suggested by Michele Westcott that the Friends of PCL could have a Facebook page. Discussion ensued and it was decided that it would be good to pursue this with Michele offering to set it up. Lisa Taylor suggested that we also consider Instagram. We agreed to both suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Next meeting is July 20, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in the PCL Community Room.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Tucker