**Friends of Peninsula Community Library**

Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, January 17, 2024

The meeting, held in the Community Room of PCL, was called to order by President Marcia Decker at 1:30 p.m.

**In attendance:** Margieanne Alfonso, Braun Campbell, Penny Campo-Pierce, Nancy Davy, Marcia Decker, Nora Francis, Mary Kennedy, Ellen Kerr, Gladys Maguire, Jenna McFarland, Madelyn Ryan, Vicki Shurly, Nicole Smethells, Nikki Sobkowski, Gretchen Soutear, Robbin Stott, Nancy Tucker. (Seventeen in attendance.)

**Welcome:** A welcome was extended by President Marcia Decker. Our theme last year was “Visibility,” which we did well. This year, Marcia suggests we emphasize “Positivity.”

**President’s Report:**

President Marcia Decker presented the following report:

* Book bundles are a hit.
* People like the newsletter.
* It was suggested that we apply for a grant from the Traverse City Rotary Club’s Sunrise Chapter to help with our summer Solstice party. We agreed. Marcia will fill out the form.
* It was also suggested that Precision Plumbing has a similar fund. We will investigate that.

**Vice-President’s Report:**

Vice-President Madelyn Ryan presented the following report:

Last year in May, we hosted a get-together with the other smaller libraries in the TADL system, including Kingsley, Fife Lake, Interlochen. This past October, Madelyn received an email communication from Interlochen with an idea that we might get together in the spring in Interlochen. No further information has been forthcoming; however, we are open to the idea.

Last summer, there was talk of a farm market on the Old Mission Peninsula. If that was proceeding, Madelyn thought it might be a market for our books. Unfortunately, it doesn’t seem to have taken hold.

Madelyn has taken over the management of the Bricks project. As of now, the bricks are up to date, having been installed in the fall, but more may be coming in. We will place a dispenser for forms in the garden, close to the bricks to make it easier for people to take a form.

**Secretary’s Report:**

The minutes were presented by Nancy Tucker, Secretary, with a reminder that the minutes are available through the Friends’ section of the PCL website. The minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Mary Kennedy presented information about our financial status and the budget for 2024 (details available by request). In 2023, due to excellent receipts on our fundraising efforts, we were able to fund library programs and special requests of nearly $30,000, well above our expected budget for 2023. Our current available funds as of 1/1/2024 are $17,651.86.

For 2024, we expect our operations receipts to be $20,700 and our expenses to be $26,500, including our commitment of $10,000 for library programs and services, plus $1,500 for newspaper subscriptions, and $15,000 for special projects.

After some discussion of the numbers, a motion was made by Braun Campbell to accept the proposed budget with corrections. The motion was seconded by Nicole Smethells. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Membership chair**: Membership Chair Robbin Stott shared this report:

In 2023, FPCL had 178 members

Individual members – 37

Household members – 70 (140 people)

Lifetime members - 8

So far in 2024, we have 19 members

Individual members – 3

Household members – 7 (14 people)

Lifetime members - 2

We are making changes to the membership letter and to the ways in which we will distribute it. In the past, the membership letter has been a mass mailing to all people on Old Mission Peninsula. The cost last year was nearly $800, and we are not sure there was sufficient return on our investment. This year, we will send it to members from 2022 and 2023 to remind them that their membership is due.

Discussion ensued about whether this change would be effective. A concern was raised about the summer people who may not be in town until May. It was determined that we will try this method of reaching our members and potential members for our membership drive this year and see whether it is effective. It was also suggested that a Friends’ membership flyer could be included in our book bundles.

**Advertising and Media:** President Marcia Decker introduced our newest board members, Jenna McFarland and Braun Campbell. Jenna and Braun will share the responsibilities for tapping into social media, keeping our website up to date, and planning for publicizing future events. Jenna explained that she has already set up a presence on Next-Door and is currently exploring a Facebook page and an Instagram account.

**PCL Library Director’s report:**

Library Director Vicki Shurly shared the following information:

* The StaySharp Kits that Friends purchased are popular. They are designed for adults who may be experiencing dementia.
* A concert experience, “Chili & Blues,” will be Monday, February 19 at 7 p.m. with Hugh Pool.
* Library of Things has purchased the following to lend:
  + 20 folding chairs
  + DVD player
  + DVD player for car
  + CD player
  + Folding dolly (good for up to 500 lbs)
* Books at the Boathouse will be held on Monday, April 22, 6 p.m.
* Versiti Blood Drive will be held February 14 at the library
* Jill Dike, a member of Friends, has mentioned PCL in the University of Nigeria Children’s Newsletter because the library has donated books to the children’s library at the University.
* New library cards are being issued, many of them to people from California.
* Mary Sue Wilkins may be available to play music at the summer Solstice party.

**Old Business:**

* Newsletter: President Marcia Decker asked for ideas about the newsletter. Suggestions were to add upcoming events in the next 3 months and to keep including pictures of past events.
* Santa at the library – 70 kids and their family members attended on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Santa, a last-minute sub, did a wonderful job. The crafts were engaging and well-received.
* Our Christmas Sing-Along was fun. And we’ll do it again. Next year we may show White Christmas and sing along with the music to that.
* Cheese, Chocolate, and Chardonnay will have a 2024 version. The theme may be “Travelogues.” We are looking for ideas for speakers.

**New Business**:

21st Century updating and new protocols.

* Our goal is to provide more user-friendly access, including Next-Door, Facebook and Instagram.
* General membership meetings.

The question was raised as to whether we want to have more general membership meetings. Discussion ensued. In pre-pandemic years, we often had either 5 or 6 meetings a year. President Marcia Decker explored this with other Friends’ groups. Most of those she surveyed, including TADL, Interlochen and others, have one meeting a year, whereas we have four. The goal, as established in the bylaws, was to be sure that the membership is a big part of the running of the FPCL. Members present voiced their opinions. From the feedback of members present, it was decided to continue to hold four meetings a year.

* Membership cards. We are exploring the idea of membership cards. We can design and email a membership card to all who are interested. After discussion, it was decided to make a membership card for lifetime members.
* Shelf display. Friends has two shelves in the library by the checkout desk. We want to dedicate one of these to a snappy display for bricks and membership.
* Membership table. We will maintain a membership table with information about Friends at events.

Activity Calendar. A list of activities was handed out to all members present. This list will be available on our website, also as an addendum to the minutes.

Events coming up:

* The Budding Artists donation tree will be in the lobby from February 1-March 9.
* The Coloring Party is March 11 from 5-7 p.m. The admission fee is one item chosen from the Budding Artists donation tree.

Manly Men helpers: Our helpers for labor and physical activity are getting older. We need more help, especially with things like lifting books. If anyone knows people who would give some time to the library, please ask them to contact us.

**Other:**

Nancy Davy, Trustee of the Library Board, wanted us to know that the Library Board is thrilled and hugely supportive of the work the Friends of Peninsula Community Library is doing. Thank you, Nancy.

Our next meeting is April 24, 2024, at 1:30 in the PCL Community Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Tucker

Addendum attached

**Friends of Peninsula Community Library Activities Calendar 2024**

January

10 Board meeting

17 General membership meeting

February

1. Budding Artists’ Wish List/ Coloring Party sign-up begins

14\* Board Meeting

March

11 Coloring Party 5:00 - 7:00

13\* Board Meeting

April

17 Board Meeting

24 General Membership Meeting

May

8\* Board Meeting

25 Bayshore Marathon

June

1. Summer Beach Read Sale begins

12\* Board Meeting

21 Summer Solstice

July

10 Board Meeting

13 Summer Beach Read Sale ends

17 General Membership Meeting

August

7-16 Annual Book Sale

September

11\* Board Meeting

21 Art Sale

October

9 Board Meeting

13 CCC

16 General Membership Meeting

November

13\* Board Meeting

December

1. Childrens Holiday Party

2-31 Holiday Book Bundle sale

16 Holiday Sing-Along

\*meeting if necessary