

## **Friends of Black Earth Public Library Meeting Minutes September 10, 2024**

Present: Bailey Anderson (Library Director); Nettie Koenig (President); Celia Westemeier (Vice President); Marie Pecquex (Treasurer); Kathryn Wachs (Secretary); Caro Smith (Member-at-Large)

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Nettie at 4:00 PM.
2. **Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes.** Reviewed and approved. (Caro motioned/Marie second).
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Marie reported our balances: \$13,305.14 in our checking account and \$35,619.11 in the Vanguard Fund. Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved (Kathy motioned/Celia second).
4. **Library Director's Report.** Bailey shared the following updates:
  - Summer Library Program. Bailey expressed her thanks to the Friends for our help in making the Summer Library Program the most successful yet.
  - Strategic Planning. The plan should be ready for approval by the end of the year.
  - Hoopla. Services will be reduced beginning on September 15, 2024 due to rising costs.
  - Copier. The current copier contract is being reviewed with an eye to upgrade to a copier offering better service as well as wireless printing and network connectivity.
5. **Memberships and Donations Letters.**
  - Letters to be used by members and donors for IRS tax deductible gifts will be sent by the end of the year.
6. **Membership.**

- We will move our membership drive to coincide with National Friends of Library Week which is observed annually in October. The dates for this year are October 20-26, 2024.
- With this change, Friends who have become members before October 2024 will have their memberships extended to October 2025.
- Caro will design a postcard for our campaign which will be sent to all Black Earth residents.
- Nettie will research printing and bulk mailing options.

## **7. Review of Recent/Upcoming Fundraisers.**

- Pie Auction.
  - Bidding process will be clarified.
  - The addition of individual treats (handheld pies, cookies, bars, etc.) for sale will be considered.
  - The price of pies sold before bidding will be revised.
- Book Sale.
  - The date of our sale will be moved to coordinate with the spring garage sales.
  - We will continue to offer \$5.00 per bag of books.
- Art Sale. November 15 to December 6, 2024.
  - We will firm up plans for this event at our October meeting.
  - Kathy will explore the idea of adding local business raffle baskets to offer at the Art sale.

## **8. New Fundraising Ideas.**

The following ideas will be discussed and evaluated at our January meeting.

- Business raffle baskets to be auctioned?
- Friends Night at local restaurants Culvers/Rookies?
- Scrabble/board game tournaments.
- Bookplates to honor individuals/special events for a donation–amount TBD.
- Bookie Cookie Sale in conjunction with local bakers.
- “Book Banks” on the checkout counter at local businesses.

#### 9. **Little Green Light.**

- The purchase of Little Green Light was approved. (Nettie motioned/Caro second).
- Board members will review training videos and prepare data for import.
- We would like to operationalize the platform in early November following our membership drive in October.

#### 10. **Paypal/Venmo Update.**

- Nettie continues to work with both Paypal and Venmo to ready the platforms for our donors.

11. **Schedule Next Meeting.** Our next meeting will be held on October 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM. Kathy will reserve the Village meeting room for this date.

#### 12. **Future Agenda Items.**

- Trivia Night – Saturday, February 1, 2025.
  - Mazo will host.
  - Nettie will reach out to Brian to discuss:
    - Keeping track of payments.
    - Moving to a larger space.
    - Considering a change from a print to a digital format.

- Scholarship.
  - At our October meeting, we will make plans to coordinate with the Mazomanie Library and the Wisconsin Heights Educational Foundation to set up our scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year.

14. **Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 PM.