

Friends of the Library Zoom Meeting, 1/18/22

In attendance: Lynn Brammer, Piper Durrell, Ellen Hall, Susan Hossack, Linda Greaver, Janice Litschert, Brenda Springer, Linda Spivey, Linda Powers, Ken Vaughan

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes

Minutes will be sent at a later date, therefore not accepted

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Brenda had sent out 3 documents-12/31/21 Balance Sheet, 12/31/21 Profit & Loss Statement, and 2022 Budget- before the meeting and she went over each in detail

#### a. Profit & Loss Highlights

Karim, Director of MFRL, asked for less money than we had at the end of the year so the budget shows a profit

Individual donations were phenomenal- more than \$11,000. As to the reason why- no one knows but the hope is that it will continue

Ellen was curious as to whether or not people were making donations because of Required Minimum Distribution requirements (a member had suggested that FOL consider mentioning that idea to members/prospective donors) and Brenda said a few people had done so and she knew that because receipts were required

Books sales have also been phenomenal and have brought in much more money that had been projected

Expenses have been limited

Net profit of \$5, 340 after the library donation has been subtracted

#### b. Balance Sheets

Bank balance is \$31, 914.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurers Report and all said aye

### 4. Budget for 2022

Income-

Donations for summer program was left the same

Individual donations was bumped up because last year's actual donations were higher than the amount budgeted

Book sales left the same

Garden tour bumped up based on last year's successful tour

Notecards- sold out this past year, amount left the same but there must be some minor tweaking of expenses/profit based on envelope and card size chosen

Teri Hoover asked about the possibility of the Blacksburg Regional Artist Association making notecards of the art created at the garden tour and using it for both publicity and fundraising

Total income is projected at \$24,866 which is \$266 more than the previous year 2021

## Expenses-

Bumped up Hospitality (Garden Tour) to \$500, which is the amount that Lynn and Phyllis were planning to request

Newsletter expense of \$50 was left unchanged, because of a just don't know possibility. There was much discussion as to whether it was necessary to give members the option of opting out of the electronic newsletter and therefore needing a paper copy and/or what to do about members who do not have an email address or choose to not use that for the newsletter. Sue will give Linda S a list of people who don't have email addresses and they can be mailed paper copies but the option to opt out may possibly be removed from the membership form

Online donations (other than membership fees)- is there a way to ask donors to cover those fees. The fees are minimal but do add up, the company used charged minimal fees, but Sue will look into this

Coffee- last year budgeted \$150, actual \$200- unknown factor here is of course the pandemic

Motion to approve proposed budget- Linda P, seconded by ?, approved

### 5. Scholarship

Someone has, at last, applied for the scholarship for an MFRL employee /individual working toward a degree in library science. Unfortunately that individual has not worked for a year in the library system and the scholarship has 4 requirements-one of which is that the employee has worked for the system for a year and another is that there must be a recommendation on file from his/her supervisor. The employee will have worked for a year as of March so there was discussion as to (a) whether the process of getting the recommendation and the paperwork would take until March anyways so just let the process work itself out or (b) as suggested by Ken, that the rules need to be changed to let the timing be at the supervisors discretion and (c) the rules should reflect conversations from last year that allow the money to be used for an undergraduate who is taking courses that are directly related to obtaining a library science degree.

Linda Spivey will inform the individual involved that she is being considered but the time element needs to be resolved and that could possibly happen at the February meeting. Ken also asked if there is money that can be used to support travel related expenditures for library employees. Ellen believes the answer is yes but will check with Karim.

### 6. Garden Committee

The committee is meeting on Zoom next Tuesday- and is hoping to add a few more members as several long term volunteers are taking some time out.

There are 6-7 gardens for 2022 year, several of which have previously been on the tour. The gardens are in Ellett Valley and heading up the valley into Blacksburg.

Lynn is willing to take on the challenge of reworking the Garden Tour Facebook page as well as the FOL page

### 7. Membership

Sue said there have been 33 family renewals and 32 Individual renewals (one new) and several new volunteers ( most renewals were done online. Some of the volunteers would like to work on book sales.

One of the new volunteers is interested in working on the Facebook page and Sue passed that info on to Lynn.

Ellen asked about a comparison of last year's membership figures to the current year.

In January 2022

see above

In January 2021 (most done online)

33 renewed Family

22 renewed individual

In Sept 2021 ( end of membership year) approximate numbers are

Family Memberships 61

Individual Memberships 71

Sue stated that 92 Family membership and 82 Individual Memberships have yet to be renewed.

All libraries need more printed copies of Membership Forms.

#### 8. Membership Drive and Book Sales

Should the drive be coordinated among the branches- same week, same month, etc.

Issue as to volunteers and shortage thereof

Tie in membership drive with book sale- once again members will be allowed in for the first hour (or two?)

Create publicity (Everything Blacksburg, Everything Christiansburg) before next sales telling the public that members will be allowed in first- need to block out the time before the publicity goes out

So make decisions, inform libraries directors that that there needs to be that extra hour or two added to the sale time, and realize that future book sales will be based on low Covid numbers, availability of community rooms, and weather.

So booksale= membership drive

Next book sale in Blacksburg is set for March 25 but there may be a Feb. sale since January was cancelled as of today

Ellen will send 2021 contact list to be corrected if needs to be updated

Motion to Adjourn

Next meeting is 2/15 in Shawsville.

