

**MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2024**

I. Call to Order

Vice President Rose Mary Crook called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. at Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee, GA.

Board members present were: Marcia Aunspaugh, Rose Carter, Suzanne Carter, Rose Mary Crook, Kathy Day, Barbara Hale, Judith Lee, Ann Lewis, Elaine Roberts, Gigi Smith, and Delores Staton. Friend, Dick Aunspaugh was also present. Meredith Legg-Grady attended on behalf of Kevin Kirby.

Board members not present: Kevin Kirby, Darlene Pilcher, Jim Reynolds, and Mary Welken.

II. President's Report

Vice President Crook welcomed everyone.

III. Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2023 board meeting were presented by Kathy Day. Rose Carter moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections; motion was seconded by Barbara Hale; passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Jim Reynolds was not present. Rose Mary Crook read the following from an email submitted by Jim Reynolds: "In January, we took in \$473.43 and spent \$64.39 for book sale signs. We finished the month with a balance of \$25, 713.48. Our Georgia and US tax forms for 2023 were filed. We owe no taxes since we are a small non-profit organization."

V. Library Reports

Meredith Legg-Grady reported for TCPL that the Backyard Bird event was successful with 24 people attending. Story Time is averaging 18 participants.

Ann Lewis, Branch Manager MRL reported upcoming events and programs to include a mystery book club, and an adult program on financial planning. The recent WWII program was jointly sponsored with Young Harris College and over 180 people attended which was a great success. Story Time is partnering with Ferst Readers for children age 4 and under eligible to participate and receive free

books. Kids Club had a very successful event working with clay, led by FOLTC board member Darlene Pilcher. The recent repurposing of space at MRL has created a wall that will be used for a rotating art exhibit of local artists. The libraries and FOLTC have an opportunity for community outreach at the April 21 Spring Fling event in Young Harris. Fannin County, Union County, and Towns County libraries will be collaborating and sharing big event programming in this year's Summer Reading Program. Ann requested \$500 for updating the Children's Room at MRL to make it more engaging for young readers (\$100 for paint, \$100 for Signage, and \$300 for book displays).

Barbara Hale made a motion to give \$500 to MRL for updating the Children's Room, motion was seconded by Kathy Day; passed unanimously.

VI. Book Bunch 'n Lunch

Gigi Smith reported the February book will be The Book of Ruth by Jane Hamilton. The March book will be The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win WWII by Denise Kiernan. The April book will be Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel by Sheldon Van Pelt.

VII. Corresponding Secretary

Judith Lee reported there was no correspondence.

VIII. Bookstore/Book Sales

Marcia Aunspaugh reported sales are going well at both bookstore locations during the Inventory Reduction Sale. Marcia thanked Suzanne for all her publicity efforts to promote the sale.

IX. Bake Sales

Darlene Pilcher was not present

X. Membership

Rose Carter reported that as of February 2024 we have a total of 79 current members consisting of 3 business, 8 donor, 10 family, 3 honorary, 32 individual, 6 life, 12 patron, and 5 sponsors.

XI. Newsletter

Darlene Pilcher was not present..

XII. Publicity

Suzanne Carter continues to provide updates for the website and posts on FaceBook, including sharing posts from the libraries on the FOLTC FaceBook page. She proposed giving an honorary business membership to the Towns County Herald newspaper in thanks for all the extra publicity they give us whenever FOLTC submits an article.

Rose Carter made a motion to give a one year honorary membership to the Towns County Herald, motion was seconded by Marcia Aunspaugh; passed unanimously.

XIII. Old Business

Ongoing Inventory Reduction Sale – going well per Marcia Aunspaugh’s comments above.

XIV. New Business

- Senate Bill 390 discussion – members were encouraged to write to their state representatives expressing concern for proposed changes in Georgia law that would not require library directors to be certified librarians.
- National Library Workers Day – April 9, 2024
Barbara Hale made a motion to give a \$25 Ingles gift card to each library employee, motion was seconded by Marcia Aunspaugh; passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. by Vice President Rose Mary Crook. The next meeting will be April 9, 2024, at MRL.

APPROVED April 9, 2024