

MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2020

I. Call to Order

President Elaine Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. at Mayor's Park pavilion, Young Harris, GA. The board members exercised social distancing and wore masks in order to safely conduct the meeting outdoors.

Board members present were: Suzanne Carter, Kathy Day, Debbie Phillips, Jim Reynolds, Elaine Roberts, Gigi Smith, Doris Tilly, Tammy Wells, and Linda Worl. Friends, Barbara Hale and Delores Staton were also in attendance.

Board members not present: Marcia Aunspaugh, Judith Lee, Darlene Pilcher, and Mary Welken.

II. President's Report

President Roberts welcomed all to the meeting. Heath Lee, MRLS Director, was unable to attend.

III. Minutes

The minutes of the August 11, 2020 board meeting were presented by Kathy Day. Jim Reynolds moved that the minutes be accepted as read; motion was seconded by Doris Tilly; passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Jim Reynolds distributed the Treasurer's Report for the period of January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Beginning balance was **\$26,115.19**. Total income was **\$4,914.97**; total expenses were **\$7,660.09**. The balance as of September 30, 2020 is **\$23,370.07**, with unencumbered funds of **\$13,370.07**. The financial report was accepted.

Jim Reynolds shared a report comparing income and expenses for 2019 and 2020 year-to-date, as of September 30. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fund raising efforts have come to a halt for FOLTC, with the exception of income received from book store sales, membership and donations. When also taking into consideration book sale, bake sale and pie sale revenue taken in during the final quarter of 2019, overall income will be down nearly \$13,000 in 2020.

V. Library Report

Debbie Phillips provided an update regarding TCPL and MRL branches. Upon questioning about why the library in Young Harris is only open two days a week, she reported that the closure was due to a combination

of issues including budget, COVID-19, and attendance/circulation statistics being less there versus the library in Hiawassee. She stated that the hope is to someday be able to add an additional day at Young Harris, but that will depend on budgeting. New book purchases have begun to flow again. RB Digital is being replaced by Libby by OverDrive for e-books, audiobooks, and digital magazines.

VI. Book Bunch 'n Lunch

Gigi Smith reported that Book Bunch 'n Lunch is being held at Daniel's Restaurant in Hiawassee on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The October book is The Library Book by Susan Orlean, discussion to be led by_____. The November book will be Ecology of a Cracker Childhood by Janisse Ray, discussion to be led by Delores Staton. There will be no meeting in December.

VII. Corresponding Secretary

Judith Lee was unable to attend. She has sent many thank you letters for donor and patron memberships.

VIII. Bookstore/Book Sales

Marcia Aunspaugh was unable to attend. Doris Tilly reported that 32 boxes of books had been donated by Brannen Lodge.

IX. Bake and Pie Sales

There are no plans to have bake or pie sales this year. The position of Bake Sale chair person remains unfilled.

X. Membership

Tammy Wells reported there has been an increase in donor and patron level memberships this year. Jim Reynolds will post the donor list at Towns County Public Library.

XI. Newsletter

Darlene Pilcher was not present. She sent a request through Suzanne Carter that articles be submitted to her for the next newsletter by October 25, 2020.

XII. Publicity

Suzanne Carter stated that she does not have to write all newspaper articles. However, the articles must go through her for submission to the newspaper.

XIII. Old Business

- a. Book Sale - The bookstore committee will meet to discuss options for an “honor pay” book sale during the month of November.
- b. Defibrillators - Jim Reynolds reported that the purchase of the AER (defibrillators) for the 2 libraries has not taken place since pricing has not been received from the State.
- c. The Little Free Library box has been painted by Dick Aunspaugh and is ready to be installed at the Towns County beach park. Elaine Roberts has scheduled a meeting with Cliff Bradshaw, Towns County Sole Commissioner, to determine the exact installation location. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled as soon as it is installed.

XIV. New Business

- a. Cabinet Project - A request for funds was submitted by Debbie Phillips to purchase and install cabinets in the staff lounge area at MRL. Much discussion ensued and it was decided to wait until a Memorandum of Understanding has been adopted between Mountain Regional Library System and FOLTC before making a decision on this matter. Concern was expressed that with the limited revenue being taken in, this project did not fit well with the mission statement of FOLTC and that our priorities for expenditures should remain tightly in line with our mission statement at this time.
- b. Nominating Committee: Barbara Hale, Tammy Wells and Darlene Pilcher have agreed to serve on this year’s Nominating Committee. Nominees will be sought to fill the positions of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

XV. Other Business

Barbara Hale reported that the Friends of Georgia Libraries’ (FOGL) awards ceremony for Doris Tilly is scheduled for October 29th @ 2:00 p.m. in Young Harris. Limited invitations will be sent out and rsvp will be required in order to limit the number of attendees to comply with CDC COVID-19 restrictions regarding group gatherings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. by President Elaine Roberts.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Day, Recording Secretary

Approved December 8, 2020