

**MINUTES**  
**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**February 16, 2021**

**I. Call to Order**

President Mary Welken called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. at Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee, GA. The board members exercised social distancing and wore masks in order to safely conduct the meeting.

Board members present were: Marcia Aunspaugh, Suzanne Carter, Kathy Day, Judith Lee, Darlene Pilcher, Jim Reynolds, Elaine Roberts, Delores Staton, Mary Welken, Tammy Wells, Linda Worl, and Jessica Tibbetts, Library Branch Manager of Towns County Libraries.

Board members not present: Gigi Smith and Doris Tilly.

**II. President's Report**

President Welken welcomed all to the meeting.

**III. Minutes**

The minutes of the December 8, 2020 board meeting were presented by Kathy Day. Suzanne Carter moved that the minutes be accepted as read; motion was seconded by Marcia Aunspaugh; passed unanimously.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Jim Reynolds distributed the Treasurer's Report for the period of January 1, 2021 to January 31, 2021. Beginning balance was **\$25,697.75**. Total income was **\$1,110.00**; total expenses were **\$55.00**. The balance as of January 31, 2021 is **\$26,752.75**, with unencumbered funds of **\$16,752.75**. The financial report was accepted.

**V. Library Report**

Jessica Tibbetts reported that staff are undergoing major weeding of the collections at both branches. Some materials have never been checked out since they were purchased in the 1990's. FOLTC will have first refusal of any that we want for selling in the bookstore or book sales. Suzanne provided Jessica with a copy of our list of acceptable materials. She is making efforts to make collections more user friendly; i.e., moving Large Print books to the front of the library so patrons who need them can access them more easily.

Jessica requested that all volunteer hours be emailed to her monthly at: [jessicat@mountainregionallibrary.org](mailto:jessicat@mountainregionallibrary.org).

Jessica provided an update on the reopening of MRL. Operating hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Initially it will be curbside only but hope to be open to the public soon. Additional funding from the County Commissioner was used for hiring staff.

#### **VI. Book Bunch 'n Lunch**

Gigi Smith was not present. The March book is Gregory Peck: A Biography by Gary Fishgall. The April book is An Ordinary Life – Touched by an Extraordinary God by Arlene M. Grey.

#### **VII. Corresponding Secretary**

Judith Lee reported she sent a thank you to Gretchen Howell as a sponsor member and a “thinking of you” card to Gigi Smith.

#### **VIII. Bookstore/Book Sales**

Marcia Aunspaugh reported she currently has 42 boxes of books in her basement and room for no more. There is a need to have a book sorting day.

#### **IX. Bake and Pie Sales**

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

#### **X. Membership**

Tammy Wells sent out reminder notices for renewals and received a very successful response, bringing in \$1110 in revenue.

#### **XI. Newsletter**

Darlene Pilcher requested that articles be submitted no later than April 15, 2021 for the next newsletter. Newsletters are published 4 times per year in February, May, August and November.

#### **XII. Publicity**

Suzanne Carter stressed the need for each of us to send letters, emails or call our state elected officials to encourage them to provide funding for public libraries. She reminded us that 2021 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FOLTC and plans for a celebration are on hold until the pandemic recedes.

#### **XIII. Old Business**

- a. Honor Book Sale was a huge success. We learned a lot that we can use for future sales and fund raising efforts.
- b. Defibrillators - Jim Reynolds reported that the purchase of the AER (defibrillators) for the 2 libraries has still not taken place since pricing has not been received from the State. Jessica said she would find out what she could and report back to us. She also expressed concern about the need for staff to be thoroughly trained on safe and

appropriate use and procedures and whether this was something they would be comfortable having in the branches.

#### **XIV. New Business**

- a. Towns County Library Board – Update from Jan. 6 meeting: Marcia Aunspaugh attended and reported about the successful FOLTC Honor System Book Sale.
- b. National Library Workers Day, April 13, 2021  
Suzanne Carter made a motion for FOLTC to purchase \$15 gift cards from Ingles for every library staff member to honor them on National Library Workers Day. Tammy Wells seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
- c. Partnership Agreement with Mountain Regional Library – in process  
Mary Welken reported the agreement is still in the review process and should be completed soon.
- d. Development of FOLTC web page to place link on MRL site  
Mary Welken reported that she had talked to Robert Harford who has provided website services to the Union County Friends of the Library. She has spoken to their president, and they are very happy with his services. He will design, maintain, update and host our site at no cost. He does this as a service and hobby.  
Marcia Aunspaugh moved that we utilize the services of Robert Harford to develop, host and maintain a website for FOLTC. Jim Reynolds seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
- e. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bookstore at TCPL  
Jessica has offered space in the hospitality area at TCPL to FOLTC to set up a bookstore area in existing shelving and cabinets. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of this idea. Suzanne Carter moved that we set up a 2<sup>nd</sup> bookstore location at TCPL on a 6-month trial basis. Darlene Pilcher seconded the motion; passed with 11 votes for and 1 vote against.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. by President Mary Welken.  
Next meeting will be April 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Mountain Regional Library.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Day, Recording Secretary

Approved April 13, 2021