

## Minutes for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Amherst County Public Library held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at the Amherst Library, Amherst, VA

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by Vice-President Elect Tricia Hinds.

Treasurer Gail Curtin reviewed the current financial report for the Friends of the Library and stated that the Friends are currently in the black for the year's income versus expenditures, not counting money already in the bank from previous years (see attachment).

Old Business: Tricia covered the old business of the group which consisted of the discarded book sales held in the spring of 2021 which raised over \$1,300 as well as Make a Difference Day 2021 in which books were sent to the elementary schools for the first grade students instead of the students coming to the library for a tour due to the pandemic and restrictions on field trips.

New Business:

- Board Positions: The following volunteered to fill the open positions on the Friends Board and were approved by all in attendance:

President: George Jurand

Vice President: Tricia Hinds

Secretary: Jean Myhre

Treasurer (and Publicity Coordinator): Gail Curtin

Member-at-large: Becky Jones

Member-at-large: Claudia Van Koba

Member-at-large: Christina Woodburn

Book Stop/Book Sale Co-coordinator: Jean Bryan

Book Stop/Book Sale Co-coordinator: Karen Cobb

- The new Library Director, Jacob Etter, was introduced to the group and he presented his Director's Report (see attachment).

He reviewed the purpose of the Friends to support the Library and pay for things that the County can't legally spend budget money on for the Library. He also gave out a copy of the Library's Five Year plan and reviewed how the Friends connect with and support the plan.

He presented his proposed budget to the Friends which covered the Summer Reading Program, Prizes for Adult Reading Programs, Library events, Buying books for giveaways, Christmas Party funding, and Library Decorations. A question was asked about being able to afford funding this budget based on what is currently left from this year's income and Gail explained that she was just reporting the one year's income and expenses and that there is a good deal more money in the bank to cover the budget. Jean Bryan made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Karen Cobb provided the second. and all approved.

Jacob then presented a proposal to consider getting debit cards to the Friends bank account for himself as Director and for the Friends treasurer to help in purchasing things for the Library so that individual employees don't have to make purchases out of pocket and wait to be reimbursed. This will be discussed further between Jacob and the Treasurer.

He mentioned some ideas for the Friends to consider to help them maximize their reach: having the library pages help with the Book Stop including sorting books and helping move books up to the shed, thinking about big ideas to help fund for the library (i.e. a community garden, study rooms, playground) sending out fundraising letter/newsletter to try to get some more large donations from ones who might not enter the library building but would be interested in supporting the library financially. A question was asked how many Friends joined the group this year and a quick count gave the total of 31 people.

A question was asked about the Friends relationship with the Library and Jacob answered that the Friends serve as an advisory and fundraising group for the Library.

Another question was asked about the Book Sale being moved to the fall and Gail answered that it had previously been held in the fall until the last year or two before the pandemic when it was moved to April and as that date was rather close to the date of the Madison Heights Friends' Book Sale in June, it would be best to move the sale back to the Fall.

A question was asked about the relationship with the Madison Heights Library and the answer was given that both libraries are all the same library, just two locations and all the employees are Amherst County employees and can work at both libraries. As far as the two Friends groups, each group is there to support the library as a whole, but there has been some strain in the past between the two Friends groups.

A question was asked if all the big projects were intended for just the Madison Heights Library and Jacob answered that the playground was more likely to be at Madison Heights because of space and level ground although he would like to see us use the grounds here at Amherst more as well. He also stated that the study room(s) was an idea he had specifically for Amherst and there is big interest among the Friends to support this idea. Another idea mentioned for Amherst was possibly adding a gazebo out in front of the library.

- Anna Heilman, Youth Services Librarian, was introduced and she gave a brief overview of the upcoming Summer Reading Program (Oceans of Possibilities) and stated that there would be challenges for the children to complete and they would get prizes for completing the challenges as well as being entered into the grand prize drawings. She also made a point that the programs would be in person programs this year which should draw good crowds to the libraries (especially the lizard program as it is always popular). A question was asked about how the SRP is advertised and she said that bookmarks

and schedules are given to all the schools in the county and we also advertise on our website and Facebook page, as well as word of mouth advertising. Anna also made mention that adults will be able to participate in the challenges this year, however at this time, there won't be any prizes for the adults.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm and the raffle drawing was held for the Salsa Gift Basket from the membership drive and Bruce Curtin was the winner of the basket. Everyone enjoyed some light refreshments before leaving for the evening.

Those present:

Friends:

Jean Bryan	Karen Cobb
Bruce Curtin	Gail Curtin
Judy Faris	Tricia Hinds
Becky Jones	George Jurand
Jean Myhre	Becky Truslow
Claudia Van Koba	Christina Woodburn

Library staff members:

Jacob Etter, Library Director

Anna Heilman, Youth Services Librarian

Glenda Wray Jennings, Library Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Wray Jennings

Library Employee, Library Assistant