

**Friends of Webster Library
General Membership Minutes
November 16, 2022**

Present: Peg Ehmann, Winanne Messing, Deb Suffoletto, Robyn Incardona Edward Cole, Gail Dominik, Brenda Rubenstein, Richard Reid, Karen Stoddard, Nancy Blando, Mary Alice Morre, Mehdi Arague, Tony Hubbard, Joyce Bradstreet, Sharon Pratt, Linda Devey, Diane Pero, Angela Demerle, Ruth Tetlow, Marge Gascon. Eileen Brookins

Guest: Jenny Paxson, Reader's Discovery Librarian and Library Liaison

Linda called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

Welcome and introductions: Linda welcomed members and as there were several new members at the meeting, asked each member to introduce themselves.

Secretary Report: There were no questions concerning the minutes from the September 21, 2022 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Peg reported that the lobby store made over \$2,500 each month this year. The fall book sale total was \$6,576.84. A check for \$10,000 was recently given to the library. This makes a total of \$35,000 given to the library by the Friends year to date. The FWPL Board of Directors has approved the purchase of a new laptop computer and a Microsoft 365 subscription.

October Book Sale: All books not sold at the book sale were taken to Savers by the volunteers and Boy Scout Troop 108. All Franzia boxes are now stored at volunteer's homes and will be returned in the spring for the next sale.

Lobby BookStore: Robyn reported there are now 17 volunteers in the sorting room. The Winter Holiday Book Sale begins November 29th. An offer to donate a Holiday Basket to sell at the Winter Holiday Book Sale was made.

Membership: Marge reported that all new members' information has been added to the database. Renewal letters will be sent out in February. All memberships will renew in March.

Publicity: Eileen reported that all the publicity for the Winter Holiday Book Sale has gone out. The committee will meet to access ways to share with the public who the Friends are what we do.

Sunshine Committee: Linda reminded members to contact Elaine Davis if they know of any Friend who may be in need of a little sunshine.

Volunteer Opportunities: Jenny has shared several opportunities for Friends volunteers to help at library events. A sign up sheet was passed around. Gail will contact new volunteers also.

Newsletter: Gail and Mary Alice have volunteered to put together an informative newsletter to send to members highlighting events, news and information about the Friends.

Library Report: Jenny read a report from Adam that stated the 2023 Town budget has passed. This included an 8% increase in the materials budget for the library. 900 people attended the Halloween event held at the Library. The plaza recently sold for \$18.6 million. The library lease with the new plaza owner will remain the same.

The library will be closed November 24, 25; December 23-26; January 2 and January 15th.

Amazon Smile: Linda reminded members that Amazon Smile will donate .5% of a purchase on Amazon to the Webster Friends of the Public Library. To participate, please sign into Amazon Smile, under charity choose Friends of the Webster Public Library, complete your purchase. The FWPL recently received a check from Amazon Smile.

Meeting Schedule for 2023: The following dates have been reserved for the General Membership Meeting to be held in 2023 in the Community Room. Meetings will begin at 2 pm. January 18th, March 16 (in the story room), May 17, July 19, September 20, and November 15.

Webster Museum Tree Festival: Sharon Pratt from the Webster Museum described the upcoming Tree Festival event at the museum. The museum is looking for organizations and families to decorate trees for display. The community will vote on the trees during the month of December. The tree with the most votes will win a \$25 award.

Volunteer Committee: Marge reported that the volunteer committee is updating the intake process for volunteers.

Book Sale Committee: Peg reported that the book sale committee will meet in January before the January 11th Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50

Respectfully submitted
Eileen Brookins
Secretary