



FRIENDS OF THE PAMLICO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
April 28th, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Jessie and Ellie Aldridge, Joan, Kathy Baradyn, Rich and Carolyn Bartz, Ben Bowditch, Bonnie Cap, Jennie DeStefano, Bob Fuller, Pat Potter, Kristian Pridgen, Peg Vick.

Bonnie called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00.

The **March 24 minutes** had been emailed to all members. Bonnie asked for any additions or corrections. Since there were none, Pat made a motion to accept the minutes as presented with Bob seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

Carolyn and Rich presented the **budget update**. The FOL has a total of \$458,400.62 in its accounts. This includes a total of \$2812.50 from the book sale and raffle at the Rotary Club's Boat Show Book Sale. Many thanks to Rotary and to the volunteers for making this a successful book sale. It was a good opportunity to spread the word about the new library and there was a good deal of interest in the renderings Walter Vick provided. **Carolyn** mentioned that an engineering book sold for \$280 on our Amazon account. Powell's credit has now topped \$760.00 and will be used to purchase books for the library at the end of the library's fiscal year.

Kathy presented the Membership report noting that there are now 107 active members (40 individual memberships and 67 family memberships), with five renewals and three new members enrolled. She asked for the ability to sort books on an on-going basis rather than just prior to a book sale as the recent sorting process at Hardee's was a nightmare. Luckily the scanning team doing the sorting is a companionable group and worked very well together. To that end, she asked about purchasing bankers' boxes. Bonnie said that we could continue to obtain crates from the Inland Waterway Provision Company at no cost. We decided to see how that works but may revisit the purchase of boxes in the future. **Caitlin** noted that she has a group of 6th graders from the Pamlico Christian Academy coming in to provide a day of service and intends to ask them to sort books that have been scanned.

Kathy had researched ways that the New Bern library delineates the donation of books since many books arrive at the library without covers or damaged in ways that make them unsaleable. We will need to create verbiage that allows donors to know the parameters of what they can/cannot donate in the future.

Kathy also looked at membership letters from other FOLs and noted that there were various levels of giving: Friend, Special Friend, Outstanding Friend, etc. Since we are embarking on a Capital Fund Raising Campaign, it was suggested that we add categories beyond the basic \$15 and \$20 we currently ask for. (Note: if we go up to \$1,000 and \$5,000, do we designate these as part of a "Legacy Tree" – leaves at one level, steppingstones at a higher level, bedrock, etc.?). We will need to address this in the future and have our new membership letter rewritten to include the levels we decide on. Kathy will contact the New Bern library to confirm that it would be acceptable for us to use some of their membership language.

Since we missed National Library Workers' Day on April 5th, Kathy asked if we would allocate funds for gift cards for the staff. Kathy made a motion to do so, Peg seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. We decided on \$25 each as a token thank you.

Under **Communications and marketing**, Bonnie mentioned the major job Cathy had done getting Book Sale flyers and signs ready for the Rotary Boat Show Book Sale. Kat printed the signs and had them laminated. Cathy also prepared a flyer for the April 25th presentation at the Old Theater in Oriental. Peggi Carman enlarged the flyer to poster size to use with the sandwich board to advertise the meeting. (a report on that presentation will be made at the May 26th meeting).

Fundraising has not geared up to schedule events at this time.

In **Library News**, **Caitlin** reported that Game Stop would not allow donations for a contest which is part of the program for the Teen summer reading program. A grant from Walmart for the purchase of the Nintendo Switch – a prize for the teen program – is still on the table and it was decided that Caitlin would pursue that grant. As a sidebar, the FOL could apply to Walmart for a grant of up to \$5,000 for the building fund, also. The **Comic Convention** will be at the Delamar Center at PCC on May 7th from 10:00 – 2:00. Pat agreed to help set up the table. Michael Eury, a New Bern resident, will be the speaker. Costumes are welcome and there will be a costume parade and prizes for the winners. **OH poetry**

class is scheduled for later today. **Pine Knoll Shores** will be bringing an aquarium-based program to the library on June 10th.

Ongoing business included looking at whether the May 14th community/family event potentially scheduled that day would be feasible considering the short period of time to prepare. Bonnie distributed a draft outline of responsibilities for such an event, and it was decided that we could not create a successful event within the two weeks we had to do so. We tabled this event until potentially a Fall date. We need to notify The County Compass as they had mentioned the May 14th date in an earlier publication.

Jennie presented the **Scholarship Report**. The student who was interviewed on Monday and was selected to receive the Marybelle R. Hollowell Scholarship has been a cheerleader and very active in ROTC. She plans on studying for a nursing degree at NC A&T. We discussed the current \$1,000 scholarship and agreed to investigate considering a different amount next year. The Awards program will occur before our next meeting so Jennie will contact the school to find out details. She also mentioned creating a document to be given to the student at that ceremony. Bonnie mentioned that a red-carpet ceremony at Artworks existed for students receiving scholarships from the Oriental Womens' Club and that we might consider including our student in that ceremony. She will contact the Womens' Club representative to find out if that will work this year.

Bonnie mentioned the need for a budget for the new building, which is often required in grant applications. She asked if Walter needed any assistance preparing a budget. **Peg** said that he had one but that costs are constantly fluctuating. We decided that the budget he had in hand would be acceptable with the caveat that costs could change.

Under New Business, we briefly discussed a June 3rd fundraiser that a local cook will prepare. He will cook for the 20th anniversary celebration of the Village Health and Fitness and Physical Therapy business in Oriental and donate a per-head amount to the building fund. He will need a total of seven volunteers between 2:00 – 8:00.

The fund raising data collection app, Exceed, is not operating as well as we had hoped. Both Caitlin and Kat have attempted to get information from the company with no success. **EACH QUESTION asked costs us \$75.00**. Caitlin once again described the use of another, more powerful program, Bloomerang. It would cost \$99.00 per month and would allow

us to pull reports on donors, send messages and reports to donors, provide thank you notes, and would eventually allow us to keep the data once our capital campaign is concluded. The program itself would cost approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000. We need to address this issue again after Kat reports on her contact with Exceed representatives.

It would be optimal for **The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation summary** to be submitted by June 1st. Since we are in a time crunch, Caitlin has volunteered to prepare this summary under the auspices of the FOL and with assistance in data collection. Once reviewed by the foundation, the FOL may or may not be granted permission to apply for a grant that could cover up to 35% of the total budget. By submitting the summary at this time, we could potentially complete a grant application, if we qualify, for approval in October. The foundation assigns an assistant to each applicant which indicates the complexity of the grant.

Due to a time crunch, reviews of the April 11th meeting with the Alliance Board of Commissioners and of the April 25th Old Theater presentation were tabled until the May meeting.

With a scheduled 5:30 group needing the meeting room, Pat made a motion to adjourn, Kathy seconded it and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.