

Friends Of Oskaloosa Library FOOLs Minutes
Unapproved – to be reviewed and approved at next meeting

Date: November 13, 2024

Location: Book Fools bookstore, 5:15 pm

Meeting Called to Order 5:15 pm

The September Meeting Notes were approved.

Officers and Members Present

President Margaret Fast, Secretary Carol Snyder, Co-Treasurers Jeannette Hierstein & Melinda Dick-Lang, Members: Jen Trowbridge, Jo Cross, Cheryl Sylvester, Wayne Sylvester, Board of Trustees: Doug Bond, Stephanie Spencer

Previous Business

Margaret reviewed the past year's accomplishments in fundraising and community activities - Treats for Sweets, Plant Sale, FOKL grant, Summer Reading support, plus collaboration with the Jefferson Co. Historical Society and author talks.

We continue to search for a reasonably priced BOOKS "feather flag" for the bookstore.

Treasurer's Report

Melinda presented the bank printout showing credits and expenditures (none) as of Nov. 13, 2024. The bookstore remains a vital source of income.

Stephanie suggested yearly sales totals from bookstore be available.

Summer Reading report from Sammy, as emailed.

On Oct 25, 2024, at 4:16 PM, Library Director <director@oskielibrary.org> wrote

Thank you for your request, Margaret:

"Below is a breakdown of how the \$750.00 donated by FOOLS was spent for the Summer Reading Program:

\$50.00 to FW Huston Pharmacy for the purchase of 35 single scoop ice cream cones, with FW Huston donating 40 cones.

\$180.00 to the City of Oskaloosa for the purchase of 60 swimming passes (by far our most popular prize), with the City donating use of the pool for the end of summer reading party.

\$411.81 for the purchase of weekly prizes

\$39.05 for the 5-8 age range grand prize

125.00 to Atlas Education for the event held at the beginning of July

Staff, primarily myself, was able to solicit over \$1,100.00 in donations for the Summer Reading Program including most of the grand prizes awarded as well as the generous donations from Oskaloosa Thriftway, the regional manager for Dollar General, and Herman's Meat Market. We were able to mitigate costs from our end of summer reading party by communicating with the pool and using purchased pool passes where possible to keep the pool free for as many attendees as possible. The tally for our end of summer reading party totaled in at 107. Much of the supplies used for the other events held was either created by staff, donated, or borrowed from other entities.

We had 169 children enter the summer reading program and 60 adults, roughly 29 more participants than had been set as our goal for program involvement. Of the 169 children that entered the program, only 6 were not "active participants" in that they signed up but did not attend events or turn in reading checkpoints throughout the program.

It is my anticipation that next year's summer program will be even larger than this year's as multiple individuals have approached me regarding the "hookup" that we gave out this year and interest as to whether we will be able to expand our adult program as well. For that reason, and the state of the economy as it currently stands, the library will be needing to triple the revenue for the 2025 program. This is complicated by the lack of corporate resources and funding that were once more readily available. Of notice would be the Dollar General Summer Reading Grant. I have discussed with other librarians and none of the folks that I spoke to were awarded the grant and were not provided reasoning as to why.

While myself and other staff were able to solicit donations, this was a time consuming task and energies would be better expended in other ways.

Since April we have issued approximately 300 new library cards."

FOOLs is in agreement to continue specific support of Summer Reading.

Board Report

Doug and Heath will review the MOU presented by FOOLs.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 18th, 7:00 pm.

The Board is currently reviewing the Library's Policies and Procedures manual.

The Library's Strategic Plan for FOOLs advocacy, Board participation, and opportunities for growing activities was noted.

Director's Report (continuation of Oct. 25, 2024, email above)

"At this time, the library has several areas in need of assistance. One of the most dire, would be the state of our Children's Department selection. While the collection is frequently thumbed through, the collection is beginning to show that wear. Many of our classics need a fresh face to present to our youth to help garner attention. And as graphic novels continue to rise in popularity, the need to be able to add more to our collection.

Another area in need of refreshment is our admin technologies. Both the Director's computer as well as the front computer are over 10 years old and are showing their age. We are able to purchase replacement machines for roughly \$1,160.00 each through NEKLS including the technologies that would need to be included. At this time we have neared the end of our technology budget updating machines in the computer lab for patron use.

Based upon the number of daily patron visits from last year to this year, we have doubled the number of patrons visiting the library on a daily basis."

FOOLs discussed the Director's report on library needs, mentioning that technology requests be aligned with NEKLS guidelines, and current library budgeting. FOOLs is committed to responsibly supporting the library. These needs will be discussed further at our next meeting.

New Business

Holiday Sale, Dec. 14th – reviewed accepted vendor list and follow-up with others.

Mrs. Claus is a yes!

Salvation Army bell in front of bookstore, volunteer ringers would be appreciated.

Bookstore Clean-up Day – Friday, Dec. 6th 12:00pm - 3:00pm.

Review Officers

Margaret reviewed the FOOLs by-laws on elections, and the group's consensus is to continue with current Officers.

President; Margaret Fast, Secretary; Carol Snyder, Treasurer(s); Jeannette Hierstein and Melinda Dick-Lang.

Memorandum of Understanding

Margaret read the MOU she prepared with reference to the FOKL example. After some discussion on staff advocacy and support to FOOLs, the current MOU draft will be sent to trustees Doug and Heath for final review and approval.

Next Meeting

FOOLs will meet again in early 2025.

Motion to adjourn by Jo Cross, seconded by Jen Trowbridge. Meeting ended at 6:47pm.