

Friends of the Aberdeen Library Meeting of May 14, 2024

Attendance: Jennifer Jones, Branch Manager; Eva Fuentes, President; Jane Scocca, Vice-president; Susan Brandt, Treasurer; Janet Bristow, Anne Dulik, Mary Ellen Dunne, Barbara Moxley, Susan Osborn, Tom Porter, Sara Teno

Eva Fuentes brought the meeting to order a few minutes after 2 pm. The minutes of the previous meeting had been posted and approved on line.

Susan Brandt distributed copies of the Treasurer's report. Susan explained that she had not received the bank reports from First National for the past two months. Jennifer offered to check whether the reports are being delivered to the wrong party. Reports are usually mailed by the 12th of each month. The report showed that \$569 earned from the March sale was very good.

Eva asked whether it was possible to include in the report a column that would show the amount of money Friends had agreed to provide for the Library's requests and how much of those funds had not yet been spent. Jennifer keeps track of that information, but we don't see it. It might be helpful to have a column reflecting what has been promised and what has been spent when considering additional funding requests.

Our next book sale is scheduled for the first weekend of June with June 6 for receiving donations and June 7 and 8 for the sale. A SignUp Genius will be sent out for Friends to indicate which days and hours they are available to work.

Having the L-configured table at checkout worked well at the March sale. It is challenging to count up the high number of books sold to our largest buyers. Some of them do the counting themselves. The consensus is that they are honest with their purchases. When books are being sold by credit card the purchase amount is taken to the front desk. We will send the totals out on post it notes rather than the reusable plastic tags we have been using since those don't always come back. Credit card purchasers return to us with their receipts from the front desk before we release the books to them.

Jennifer showed us the new book sale signs which read "Charity Book Sale". We gave her permission to donate the old signs to a book sale at a church.

Susan received an invitation from the Foundation for the Friends to join the Summer Reading Program celebrations on June 17. There are two celebrations. One at Bel Air Library starting at 9 am and one at Havre de Grace library starting at 1 pm. We are not asked to do anything, but we could show up wearing our Friends T-shirts.

Our teen librarian Becca is looking for a basket or container for a summer activity drawing. If you have something you think might work you no longer need, please let her know.

Jennifer announced that Discovery Books went suddenly out of business and will no longer be available to take away our leftover books from the sale. The Baltimore Book Bank is willing to take away our unsold books, but the books need to be boxed. Friends will buy the boxes. Sarah suggested trying Home Depot as they have a better price. The boxes will be small so they won't be too heavy when filled. We approved buying 50 boxes to start and Jennifer will work with the library to order them and invoice the Friends. Jennifer hopes to manage the boxing of the books in-house, but Friends are welcome to help with the boxing at the end of the Saturday sale and on Monday, June 10 starting at 9 am.

Jennifer requested an additional \$1000 for summer programs and for flowers for the story garden. The request was approved.

After June the remaining book sales for 2024 are scheduled for September 5-7 and November 7-9.

Jennifer invited us to participate in the summer programs. The theme is Adventure awaits at your Library. A former park ranger will come to tell the youngsters about becoming Junior Rangers. On June 13 Dennis Kirkwood will discuss his adventures while birding the seven continents. There will be another mini golf event with Friends providing one of the 9 holes for the course. Let Stevie know if you want to help put it together.

The Harford County Public School system will provide children with summer lunches on Monday through Thursday from June 17 through August 16.

Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for September 10. The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Scocca
Secretary pro-tem