

FOJEL Minutes

Meeting May 6th, 2024 in the Pioppi Room

Attending: Mary Szczygiel, Gereen Alarie, Janey Langlois, Andrea Powers, Carolyn McKinley, Louise Majewski, Bernadette Meade, Margaret Morrissey, Barbara Day on phone.

Minutes of April 1 meeting were approved as written.

Book Sales

Andrea will type up the book sale timeline drafted by Carolyn (done). Please read and be ready to comment during next month's meeting. This will be an going or living document, always changing as needed.

Travelers Restaurant did not take all the leftover books Some were put back upstairs.

There was an \$840 revenue from the book sale after a \$50 set up fee. The plant sale was "huge". We will continue to do that. If we have a plant sale in November we will need to provide plastic bags so people can take the plants home without freezing. (Found out they are called Clear Flower Bouquet Bags Cellophane Flower Sleeves Plastic Wrapping Bags)

We are thinking about doing a "craft" theme for the next book sale. Gereen offered to do a gift basket we could raffle. (We will be getting a raffle permit for the quilt anyway so we're covered).

Pre-pandemic, we had Artful Friends raffle auction (many items). Barbara and Larry solicited donations. It was a lot of work and we did not make a lot of money. We might test it out with the next book sale.

Next book sale November 7 – 9, 2024

Summer Reading Bookmark Design Contest:

Readers will design a bookmark and the Friends will decide the winners. 3 winners. Submit photos of the winning items to the newsletter. We need to find info on previous contests from the files. Question: is digital art acceptable? We don't want to violate any copyrights.

Poet Laureate:

we gave the Poet a \$50 gas card.

- Margaret requested that the Friends consider offering a room night for Bill's next trip to Southbridge. Voted.

Pride Program:

- Mary Darling's series of 10-minute plays with an LGBTQ+ theme. Friends voted to provide a stipend of \$200 to the playwright to be presented during the Pride Program. Approved.

- Catnip Junkies - LCC Grant - May 9th
- Matt York - LCC Grant - May 16th
- Badger and Nault – LCC Grant – May 30th
- *Pride in Southbridge* will be cohosted by Charlton, Sturbridge and Southbridge again, like last year.
- Pride Meet and Greet group show, Thursday, June 6th
- Juneteenth concert with Michael B Carabello

Bookmarks

- Children's book mark entries will be eligible for prizes – first, second, third and honorable mention
- Question as to whether digital art would be accepted. For further discussion. Rules for the competition will need to be devised and made available to the Children's staff when preparing the promotional material

501.c.3

Bernadette thinks we will need membership lists to backup funding and historical lists are missing from the files. Barbara will send the current list to all and provide a monthly update.

Bernadette has talked to the CPA (Delores Ricci-Norcott <https://f5accounting.com/about-us/>) who will, for \$1500 prepare a long form application/submission. Funding approved.

Other items:

We tabled the request from Melony Collins.

Defined the schedule for the Wellness Fair at the Senior Center (Wellness Fair update: 10-noon- Larry and Sue Chaplin at Friends table, noon to 2- Gereen and Janey, 2pm clean up- Andrea and Mary. Thanks all- should be a fun time- free books, Friends info on Museum passes, Friends envelopes.)

Next meeting June 3

Minutes submitted by Andrea Powers