

## Friends of the Dexter District Library – December 6, 2016

**Call to Order:** 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mary Westhoff, President and Co-Vice President; Dan Chapman, President and Co-Vice President; Michael Raatz, Treasurer; Kathy Nesbitt, Secretary; Paul McCann, Director; Kantha Gardner, Fundraising; Cortney Ophoff, Book Sales; Margaret Steptoe, Publicity; Marilyn Raatz; Francis Sheldon; Joy Gee; Jim LaVoie; Karen Clary; Christy Maier; H. Neil Reichard; Tom Harris; Vicki Utke; Shelly Vrsek, Susan Kidd; Mara Markovs; Jeanne Bradish; Kevin Vrsek

**Agenda:** Approved

**Minutes:** Approved

**Director's Report:** It has been a great year. The millage passed with 728 in favor. Half a million items circulated so far this year.

**Slate of Officers:** Kathy Nesbitt for Secretary; Kevin Vrsek for Vice President; and Jeanne Bradish for Publicity. Slate approved.

**Volunteer of Year:** H. Neil Reichard was recognized for his efforts on behalf of the Friends. He redesigned the signs, put them out each month and picked them up again after the sales. We appreciate all he has done!

**Treasurer:** We made \$2134.50 at December sale. Current balance is \$18,500. We pay sales tax but do not charge customers. A \$10,000 donation was made to the landscaping project. \$5,000 went toward digitizing the Dexter Leader in its entirety. Taxes paid in the amount of \$317. \$100 went for new holiday decorations. This left us with a checking balance of \$3658.17.

**Book Sales:** Donations are down, but Cortney has put out a call for more donations. Sorters work every day to sort by genre, topic, etc. Books are alphabetized to make it easier for customers to search for their favorite authors. Two to three times a year children's books that do not sell go to Mitchell School so every child can have a book.

**Jennifer Kundak:** March 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Friends of Michigan Libraries meeting at the Bloomfield Library. These meetings are good for hints and new ideas. All libraries have trouble filling positions. Helpful suggestions may surface in the meeting. The Friends will reimburse expenses for those wanting to attend from Dexter.

**Joelle Moroz:** The following paragraphs are Joelle's notes from the Michigan Libraries Meeting on November 9, 2016. She was unable to attend our annual meeting, but we appreciate her extensive notes.

Paul Snyder (President of Michigan Libraries) stressed the importance of Friends of Libraries to be open and transparent to library administration, Friends' members and the public at large. Adherence to the

Mission statement is very important and Paul stressed the need to keep the statement in mind in all that we do. In his words: "Friends help support the library, not the other way around".

It was interesting to hear from the various libraries represented at the meeting. Some libraries have a less than ideal relationship with library administration. These libraries reported no useful communication between the Director and the Friends. We at Dexter are fortunate that we have an excellent relationship with our Director.

Paul also stressed the importance of the following (all of which we have):

Having a mission statement

Having by-laws

Establishing 501-C-3

### **Recruiting Board Members:**

I learned that many member libraries are having problems recruiting board members. Some Friends groups have combined board positions, and in some cases, let positions go vacant. Chelsea Friends is also experiencing difficulty filling board positions.

### **Recruitment ideas worth further discussion**

Publish board position descriptions on the Friends webpage to educate/inform.

Recruit potential board members from the senior center.

Offer to pay the cost for one or two of our Friends to attend the Friends of the Michigan Library event (following an announcement on email of the event).

Several themes emerged in a discussion concerning recruiting to board positions:

- Be visible to membership
- Communicate activities and issues to membership
- Newsletters are valuable in keeping Friends abreast of current Board activities/issues.
- All Friends have access to the various events and meetings conducted by Friends of Michigan Libraries. We might consider announcing upcoming meetings to our membership inviting those interested to attend.

Other ideas expressed by attendees:

- Have a donation line on the Membership Application Form
- Many Friends groups have a bag sale at each book sale.
- The larger Friends groups have a store and sell other items besides books. Most notably mentioned office supplies
- Some Friends groups give gifts as new members sign on

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:30 p.m. All those attending enjoyed the period of refreshments and fellowship that followed the meeting.

**Next meeting:** January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.