

**Antioch Library Friends
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 6, 2023**

In attendance: Sari Brindel, Mary Lou Balazs, Marilyn Hall, Shirley Waters, Raven Farias, Carolyn Hounsell, Ruby Hall, Dee Drew, Bob Turner, Pam Wells, Anne Dickson, Marilyn Cotteleer, Amy Blue
Guest: Stephanie Garcia

Garden Walk

Sari reminded everyone that the Garden Walk Dedication is next Saturday, July 15 and to please RSVP to publicrelations@apl.d.info.

Sales Area

There is now a free cart in the sales area. The library is getting a quote for two custom spinners to hold paperbacks. The library is paying for these from our leftover building funds.

There was a question about what to do with mass market paperbacks until the racks arrive, which will be a while. Mary Lou uses them to stock the train station and the township office about once a week. Carolyn has more paperbacks she could bring in if we want them.

We are going to investigate book easels for displaying the coffee table books in the sales area as they do not stand up well on their own.

Silent Auction

Sorters should be on the lookout for sets/nice books to use in the auctions. Raven, Karen and Melonnie are currently managing the monthly auction. Right now there are some sets of classics and series in the sorting room that could be potentials. The auction team would like to be notified when sorters come across potential items for auction so they can evaluate them. Carolyn asked if we'd consider original artwork and said she might bring in a piece of consideration at August's meeting. We have auctioned off original artwork before.

June's auction had bids of \$55 and \$20 respectively, but the items have not yet been picked up. If they don't get picked up they will be put up again in another month.

Categories in Sales Area

There was some discussion about the use of the term "trade paperback". Users don't always know what it means and Amy mentioned sometimes people remember the paperback exchange of many years ago and think it means you trade in your paperbacks. It was decided to use Larger Paperbacks instead with Trade Size in parentheses if there's room. Trade is separated out largely due to pricing.

We are using the following categories:

Mystery	Biography	Nature	Easy Readers
Fiction	Cooking	Self-Help	Youth
Large Paperback Fiction	Crafts	Sports	Baby
Science Fiction	History	Coffee Table Books	

It was decided to also add Classics in with the fiction.

There was some question about the Dollar Books category. This is used for books that are paperback, but are larger so are priced at \$1.

We will reorganize the categories such that the categories themselves are alphabetical: i.e.: biography, cooking, crafts, etc. That will be done by the regular sorters and stockers on their days as they have time.

Sidewalk Sales

The sidewalk sales will be next Thursday, Friday, Saturday: July 13, 14, and 15. We decided not to be there on Sunday although the sales are ongoing on Sunday. The publicized hours for the sales are 10-4 each day, we will be staffing 10:30-4, leaving earlier if foot traffic is low. We are low on some shifts so Amy sent out an email plea to those members who weren't present.

The library has 3 white folding tables with handles the Friends can use, as well as 2 white folding chairs.

Marilyn Hall will bring in plastic bags. Melonnie will prepare a cash box and either she or Sari will come collect it at the end of the shift.

As far as pricing, it was decided to make everything \$1.00. Feel free to make deals at the end of the day for fewer books to haul around.

Financials

The June opening balance was \$13, 517. We made \$826.78 in deposits, of which \$393 was from the book sales and about \$200 was memberships. We paid Dee \$25.20 for postage. The ending balance was \$14, 319.

Membership

We got in 3 more memberships in June, one of which was a best friend! So we've taken in \$1610 in memberships.

Volunteers

Volunteers are learning and getting comfortable stocking and sorting. After some discussion it was decided we are fine without Friday, Saturday or Sunday volunteers for now.

Mary Lou mentioned she needs new stickers for putting on the paperbacks at the train station and the township. Marilyn C. suggested Impressions Count here in town so she is going to reach out to them.

Library Requests

Amy requested help from the Friends to partially fund Freegal, the streaming service the library offers to its patrons. Freegal is a service we have offered for 10+ years and usage of it is steady, but not overwhelming. When it was budget time, we needed more money for e-books and e-audiobooks and the amount cut from physical books didn't quite reach it. Amy agreed to cut Freegal. However, since then, the company has made improvements to the product and usage is up. She talked the sales rep down \$2,000 from the price but they still want \$7500. The library can cover \$4000 of that, if the Friends could chip in \$3500. We'll publicize it heavily this year, and include sponsored by the Friends. However, if usage doesn't increase, we'll have to drop it next year. If usage does increase, we'll budget for the full amount for next year. Those present voted to fund this service—we will credit you in our publicity efforts as we try to increase usage. Thank you!

BSN Books

Stephanie Garcia from BSN books spoke some about their services. They work with 6 libraries including Schaumburg, Barlett, Vernon Hills, and Itasca to sell their high value books online. They provide a barcode scanner and phone as well as access to a proprietary database of books. Libraries scan their titles and ones that come up Green, they box and BSN will come pick them up. Stephanie said these are usually niche books that won't sell well in a physical bookstore but bring in more money online. In this way, it doesn't detract from the inventory of the physical selling space. Then when

BSN sells the book, they split the profits with the library. The libraries they work with bring in between \$90 and \$200 a month doing this. They also give a report of all the titles sold and the fees associated with each. We will discuss at a coming meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 3 at 10 a.m.