

**Antioch Library Friends  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 4, 2024  
10 a.m.**

**In attendance: Dee Drew, Anne Dickson, Carolyn Hounsell, Marilyn Cotteleer, Sari Brindel, Mary Lou Balazs, Shirley Waters, Karen Leverenz, Raven Farias, Darlene Clauson, Amy Blue, Bob Turner, Susan Moore**

**Chamber of Commerce Membership**

We have received the invoice for renewing our Chamber membership for 2024. Sari asked, do we want to? What benefit is it to us? We have been a Chamber member for some time. Darlene used to go to the events, but found it was of little benefit. There is an extra charge for going to events and if a Friends member chooses to go, they pick up that cost. Karen mentioned that the Chamber membership does have some benefits—for example, we can advertise on their website. They gave us space for the book sales this summer. Darlene moved to renew our Chamber membership and Shirley seconded; all voted aye.

**New Ways of Being Visible in the Community**

Sari mentioned some ways of being visible in the community included attendance at the library board meetings and Fireside Fridays with Jennifer, as well as the above mentioned Chamber events. Another thought was Friends sponsoring an event of some sort—Darlene had seen a Friends group sponsoring a Silent Book Discussion, where people get together to read in each others' presence, not necessarily talk. Karen thought we should develop a strategic focus for the year—i.e. veteran's support, scholarship, to build partnerships in the community.

**Library's Plans for 2024**

The ways of being visible in the community segued into Amy sharing some of the library's plans for 2024. One of our focuses is on increasing programming back to pre-pandemic levels for all age groups. We are in the midst of that right now. A way the Friends could help with that is sponsoring large children's programs, which can be quite expensive. Pre-pandemic, we would regularly, especially in the summer, have children's programs draw 100-200 kids at a time. We have not resumed these events, but we could with the Friends help. Then the Friends could come and tout their organization and all publicity would credit Friend with sponsorship. These programs can cost up to \$1,000 a program and we would get the biggest numbers in the summer, but have historically also done them on school holidays. **We think \$4,000-\$8,000 for the year would give us a great start.**

**The Friends have historically funded our Summer Reading Programs with \$4,000.** Our theme for this year is Community Matters, and we are planning a big kick off event with a County Fair feel that would involve community organizations to come have a booth and talk about their organization. We are still in the planning stages of this.

The library is also undergoing a reorganization. Amy is now the Deputy Director of Public Services, overseeing all the public departments and is hiring an assistant department head to help with Adult Services. This won't change much for the Friends but just as an FYI. The library is also planning to promote an existing department head to an Assistant Director of Operations.

One of our newer services is our Library of Things. A popular item for children are the Tonie boxes which are rather expensive but quite popular at other libraries. **Nikki is requesting \$1260 to fund a starter collection of 6 Tonie Boxes.**

Our Workshop is up and running, but we hope to continually add new services. One of them is a sublimation printer and hat press that would allow us to print t-shirts and hats and have community members also do that, as well as host programs on it. **We are asking for \$2,000 for this.**

## **Library Requests**

The library's requests are bolded up top. This represents what we would like for the year of 2024—keeping in mind that the unexpected can happen! We realize this is more than your current fund balance.

There was discussion about these requests. The two most time sensitive ones are the Summer Reading Programs and the Children's Programs—we are currently in the planning stages of SRP, and are also facing a newsletter deadline of January 15 for the March, April, May programs. Dee moved we give the library \$4,000 for the 2024 Summer Reading Program, and \$1,000 for a big children's program in the spring. Marilyn seconded, all voted aye. Amy will let Nikki know to plan this program and to let her know when it is so the Friends can come, as well as let Sara know to promote it as Sponsored by the Antioch Library Friends. Thank you Friends!

## **Holiday Luncheon**

Sari asked if the \$500 we spend on the Holiday Luncheon is a good use of the Friends money. Others commented that the other organizations they belong to who hold a holiday event usually make their members pay. Sari suggested that maybe we could do a holiday volunteer project as an organization instead, such as Feed My Starving Children. Karen mentioned her neighborhood Christmas party included a drive for socks for Open Arms Mission. Another thought was to move the luncheon to when more people could be here, for example, the spring. Amy expressed that the luncheon is an investment in the sustainability of the organization—it's a treat that keeps members engaged and connected. We also mentioned moving it to Antioch to benefit local businesses. A consensus was not reached, but the overall sentiment seemed to be to keep it as it is. We will revisit later in the year.

## **Spring Book Sale**

The Spring Book Sale will be on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 26, 27 & 28 in the Large Meeting Room downstairs. The times will be 9-4:30 on Friday and Saturday, 1-3 on Sunday. There was some discussion about whether to have hours on Sunday, but it was decided to do 1-3

400 DVDs were withdrawn from APLD and technical services can store them until the book sale. Darlene thought we should keep them as they are good titles. Maybe lower the price from \$1 each to 3 for \$1? Darlene will also store any DVD donations we receive between now and then at her house. Amy has updated the calendar and will get that information in the newsletter. [update since meeting: Marilyn has 200 bags from previous sales, additional ones are not needed at this time.]

Dee mentioned getting information to the schools about the book sale to boost attendance. Karen asked whether the library does press releases and if so can she get the contacts? Amy will ask Sara.

Karen anticipates she will have about 5-10 themed baskets (for lack of a better word; won't all be baskets) to be raffled at the Spring book sale. We will sell tickets and people will choose which they want to be entered for. Price of tickets has yet to be determined. Karen requested that members ask at one of the businesses they frequent regularly if they would care to donate to these. We might get a better response if regular customers do the requesting. Amy said she will send out the request letter we used for the speakeasy with the minutes.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Volunteers**

Pam and Ruby are out of town for now; Marilyn and Anne have been filling in. Bob or Susan could also learn to sort if they want to.

### **Sales Area**

Sari & Marilyn expressed appreciation for the new paperback racks; they are lovely.

There was a question about putting signage for pricing on the spinning racks. Amy suggested Friends work with Sara on that.

Sari reminded everyone not to overfill the free cart, and to make sure the items in it look good. Feel free to throw away items that don't look good. Also, please weed it occasionally, taking out items that have been on it for a while to keep it fresh.

### **Membership**

There was a question about why membership runs for 2 years. We thought it was to save postage, as doing it every year did not get a very good return on postage and also the 2 year membership saved volunteer time. Maybe we will look at taking it back to one year in 2025. Current memberships from now until then run through 2025.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Book Shop made \$507.82 in December which is back to pre-pandemic levels! Our expenses were \$473.74 for the holiday luncheon, \$9.25 for supplies for an ending balance in December of \$14, 373. This balance does not reflect the \$507.82 book sales, as they were deposited on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sari wanted to remind everyone that when meetings run long, to update their volunteer hours in the log book.

Sari reminded all to get reimbursed from Mel when they spend their own money on a Friends item. Mel will send them a check, even from Florida.

Sari would appreciate it if volunteers wear their ID badges when working in the Library and representing the Friends in the community.

**Next Meeting is Thursday, February 1 at 10 a.m.**