

Friends of the Willmar Public Library

Annual Meeting via Zoom

Jan. 28, 2021

Board members present: Sharyl Helgeson, Jeni Ritz, Suzanne Nelsen, Vicki Melbye, Anne Polta Not present: Bill Paterson

Membership present: Mary Huesing, Peggy Karsten, Mona Lackore

Staff present: Andrew Bregar, head librarian; Syrena Maranell, adult services and library liaison to the Friends

The meeting was called to order and roll call conducted via Zoom. Motion by Vicki, second by Suzanne to approve the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting. Motion carried,

Motion by Vicki, second by Suzanne to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A copy of the four-page annual report has been posted online.

Highlights from library staff: There are unspent funds due to the Covid-related lockdown in spring 2020. Forty-four large-print books were purchased during the year per Fund requirements. More than half of the grant money was spent on programming.

A new Cure Your Cabin Fever program was launched for adults, with 150-plus participants on board. Incentives and the grand prize are funded by the Friends of the Library. Programming had to be switched to online in 2020 due to Covid, but the public has responded well, and participants say they appreciate the creativity of the staff in responding to the situation. Friends of the Library funding has been important in helping sustain ongoing programs.

Friends of the Library funding for teen programs helped support the grand prize for the summer program. Going forward, Friends funding will also be used for contests and online activities.

Staff reported very few issues with the library exceeding capacity limits due to Covid restrictions. Patrons appreciate that the library is open and that they can come inside and use the services.

Restrictions and shutdowns have made it a challenging year for the Friends of the Library. Wisdom and Wine, set for June 2020 was canceled. A mail campaign and a scaled-back book sale helped raise money so the Friends could continue their support of library programs and services. It was noted that the community has been supportive with their donations.

Jeni Ritz reported on the rollout of the new custom-designed Friends logo that will start appearing on stationery and other print materials in early 2021.

Paid memberships for 2020 stand at 105.

Suzanne Nelsen, acting treasurer, reviewed the financial report. The Friends provided \$7,597.75 in financial support to the Willmar Public Library in 2020. This includes an annual grant of \$3,125; net proceeds of \$1,403 from the 2019 Wisdom and Wine silent auction; a \$300 Covid grant from the Minnesota Association of Library Friends; \$2,598 in proceeds from the fall mail campaign; and \$171.75 from the fall mini book sale. The Friends also directed \$2,122 to the Friends of the Willmar Public Library Fund of the Willmar Area Community Foundation for future grants to the library. The grand total directly gifted to the Willmar Public Library or invested toward future grants was \$9,719.75.

The administrative account showed \$1,900 in revenue from membership dues.

Motion by Peggy Karsten second by Mary Huesing to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

The slate of officers for 2021 was presented as follows: Sharyl Helgeson, president; Jeni Ritz, vice president; Anne Polta, secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by Mona Lackore, second by Mary Huesing to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried.

Sharyl Helgeson, president, presented bylaw revisions for consideration. The Friends fiscal year is the same as the calendar year, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Sharyl proposed that the annual meeting be moved to take place in January on a date no later than Jan. 31, after the close of our fiscal year. The list of standing committees has been streamlined. There was a suggestion from the floor to revise the punctuation in the committee list to clarify that Fundraising, Gifts and Bequests is a single committee. Motion by Mona Lackore, second by Mary Huesing to accept the bylaws amendments with the additional suggested revision.

Mary Huesing, community representative on the Pioneerland Library System Board, suggested that library tours be offered to newly elected city and county officials to familiarize them with library services and programs as they begin their terms on the Willmar City Council and Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners.

There was discussion on the Wisdom and Wine fundraiser/community event and options for the format in 2021. Planning remains uncertain due to the pandemic.

Full documents containing the annual report, financial report and bylaws are posted online at www.willmarpubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the-willmar-public-library.

Motion by Vicki Melbye, second by Peggy Karsten, to adjourn the 2020 annual meeting,