

## **Friends of the Willmar Public Library**

*Annual meeting: Jan. 26, 2022*

Present: Sharyl Helgeson, president; Jeni Ritz, vice president; Suzanne Nelsen, acting treasurer; Anne Polta, secretary; Deb Paterson, incoming treasurer; Vicki Melbye; Bill Paterson.

Staff present: Andrew Bregar, head librarian and acting Friends liaison; Alyssa Lennander, children's services; Samantha Lilienthal, teen services; Maida Berg, adult services.

Public: none.

Motion by Vicki, second by Bill, to approve the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Highlights from library staff:

Due to continuing Covid-related restrictions, library programs and activities remained primarily online and in the form of take-home kits. Toward the end of the year, in-person programs began to return. Friends funds were used during the year for a variety of craft take-home kits, summer reading activities, contest prizes and more, enabling the community to stay engaged with the library while being safe. Staff reported that participation began recovering toward pre-Covid levels as the year progressed. For example, 322 individual children signed up for the summer 2021 reading program, compared to 66 in 2020.

In 2021, the Willmar Public Library used \$1,700 of grant funds to purchase a subscription service through Thorndyke/Cengage that provides popular fiction and nonfiction large print titles on a monthly basis over the year. This subscription included 48 titles for the year.

Vicki reported on Wisdom and Wine 2021. Due to Covid concerns, the event was held via Zoom and featured Eva Moreimi, author of Hidden Recipes. Online participation was at Zoom capacity and included several groups that gathered to view the event together. Plans are on target to bring back Wisdom and Wine in person in 2022.

The Friends celebrated Friends of the Library Week in October by hosting a meet and greet and a mini book sale.

Paid memberships for 2021 stand at 90. Starting in 2022, memberships will align with the calendar year.

Suzanne Nelsen, outgoing treasurer, reviewed the financial report. The Friends provided \$9,705.65 in financial support to the Willmar Public Library in 2021. This includes an annual grant of \$3,634.65; an additional \$1,000 grant from the Friends of the Library administrative account; \$2,423 in proceeds from the fall mail campaign; and \$50 from the fall mini book sale. (Monies received in 2021 also included \$2,598 from the fall 2020 mail-in campaign that was allocated to the library at the end of 2020 but did not clear the bank until January of 2022.)

In addition, a total of \$905.14 from Give to the Max was directed to the Willmar Public Library Fund with the Willmar Area Community Foundation in 2021 for future grants to the library. The 2021 grand total directly gifted to the Willmar Public Library or invested toward future grants was \$10,610.79.

The administrative account showed \$6,502.34 in revenue for the year and \$9,646.56 in expenses. Expenses included the purchase of a laptop computer for use by the Friends of the Library. Current balance as of Jan. 26, 2022, is \$4,129.15.

Motion by Anne, second by Vicki to accept the financial report.

Motion carried.

The slate of officers for 2022 was presented as follows: Jeni Ritz, president; Sharyl Helgeson, past president; Anne Polta, secretary; Deb Paterson, treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by Suzanne, second by Bill to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion carried.

Sharyl Helgeson, 2021 president, presented bylaw revisions for consideration. Among the revisions are the addition of a conflict of interest policy and language changes that reflect the "doing business as" name of the Friends of the Willmar Public Library. Motion by Vicki, second by Suzanne to accept the bylaws amendments. Motion carried.

Suzanne Nelsen, outgoing treasurer and the last remaining charter member of the Friends of the Library on the board of directors, was recognized and thanked for her many years of devoted service.

There being no further business, the annual meeting was adjourned, to be followed by a board of directors meeting.

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

Anne Polta, secretary