

Friends of the Oak Park Public Library
Executive Board Meeting
August 12, 2024
Minutes

Present: Russ Glidden (President), Chet Taranowski, Kathleen Bell, Stuart Greene, Diane Cranford, Nancy Hartman, Leila Massouh, Eric Bryning.

Present on Zoom: Denise Roser.

Guests present: Nancy Clark and Maya Ganguly.

Call to Order: Russ called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The June 17 minutes were approved.

Library Report: Russ read Suzy Wulf's prepared library report and made a few comments of clarification.

Treasurer's Report: Leila presented a preliminary report on the 2024 Book Fair. It was noted that these were not final figures.

Folk Music Series Report: Nancy Clark discussed the concerns of booking folk music. Among other factors she has to consider any group's touring schedule as well as making sure not to upset any establishment that's paying for a band to play a gig while our library is offering the same entertainment for free.

Books Sale Results were discussed: Russ and Kat presented statistics from the book sale. Highlights included the fact that there were 1,934 sales recorded; there were 25 sales over \$100 on Friday—the top single sale was for \$656; the top sale for Saturday was for \$85. Revenues were up 15% over the previous year: \$29.5k for 2023 and \$34k for 2024. The \$10/bag sales were up as well: 155 bags sold in 2023 and 207 bags sold in 2024. The \$5 Treasures Room was deemed a success; selling 142 books at \$5 each for a total of \$710. Finally, 22 bookmarks were redeemed for one free book. Discussion followed regarding the disruptive presence of professional book buyers, countered by the fact that they bring in much more money than the average sale attendee. A suggestion was made as to whether we should charge book sellers a fee. Russ opined that a committee be formed to look into the matter. The idea of opening up the last few hours of Thursday night for 50% off sales for all volunteers and members was enthusiastically received.

Kat presented Volunteers Survey Results: There were 67 respondents. She noted the high satisfaction of most responses and relatively low dissatisfaction. Other items included: we need more able-bodied volunteers and more night shifts to accommodate them. More people wanted to take day shifts but found they filled up too fast. Also, it's hard to cancel once you sign up for a slot. But 92% said the online process did work well for them. There was a discussion about making larger signs for diagrams of how to build a palette and how to pack a stable box of books. Another suggestion was to begin

each sorting session with a 10-minute meeting to review expectations and procedures, then have volunteers sign it. Also, volunteers should wear a name tag lanyard. Board members should get permanent name badges.

Russ and Kat presented their impressions of the Arlington Heights Public Library and Mt. Prospect Public Library Book Sales: AHPL did not allow booksellers (or phones usage, too); MPPL did. Pricing was discussed and fewer or greater categories than our book sale. One Friends group also had a permanent room to sort books year round for four quarterly sales. Providing written and posted rules of book sale etiquette was discussed.

2024 Volunteer Pizza Party: Plans were finalized for the event. Jennie is taking care of the pizzas and Eric is obtaining the beverages. Diane also has bottled water left over from the book sale. Russ has requested an ice chest and ice from the library and has purchased tablecloths. Kat will send out a reminder to the volunteer list.

Volunteer of the Year Award: After much discussion it was decided to honor not one but four volunteers: Shirleen Kajiware, Kelly Solutes, Kris Hansen, and Ellie Biemer. Each will get a \$25 Downtown Oak Park gift certificate; Russ will purchase them. In addition, the person whose name is drawn for the survey lottery will get a 2025 Book Fair gift certificate for \$25.

Fall social event: Eric volunteered to create and run a game and Diane is going to handle beverages and food at the next social event in the fall, date to be determined. It was suggested that Russ approach Matt Bartodziej about presenting a short talk on the libraries' facilities department.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Bryning