

FRIENDS OF THE OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2017

Copies of the agenda and minutes of the last Annual Meeting were available for all. And each member received a raffle ticket, for which the holder of the winning number would claim an Eco tote bag at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Barbara Henninger, President, who welcomed approximately 30 members in attendance. (Later in the meeting, each of the attendees introduced himself/herself.)

Barbara noted a change to one agenda item: The Etsy pop-up shop will be held on the Café Level on Saturday, November 25, 2017 – not on Friday, November 24.

Barbara then asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 31, 2016. A motion was made and seconded.

Barbara reported that current membership of the Friends is 162. Barbara encouraged everyone to bring five friends into the Friends, to help in realizing the goal and wish of the Friends' late President, Bob Minzesheimer, to reach a total membership of 1,000.

In the absence of Treasurer Frya Barnes, Nancy Lutwin presented the Treasurer's report - a copy of which was attached to the agenda and is shown below:

2015 Balance:	\$15,407.23
2016 Receipts	<u>9,969.10</u>
	\$25,376.33
Dues & Donations	\$5,577.10
Book Sales	4,392.00
2016 Expenditures*	<u>\$ (6,917.53)</u>
Children's, YA & Family Programs	\$6,773.68
Other	143.85
2016 Balance	\$18,458.80

*OPL Friends' Objective: To raise funds to pay for programs and items deemed desirable by the Library that are not included in its budget.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the report.

Elaine DeSimone asked how expenditures from the Friends' treasury were determined. It was explained that the Library staff submits to the Board a request for funding a particular item or project and the Board makes the decision whether to approve or decline.

Amy Ferrara, a Croton resident and long-time Friend, commented that she is glad that the Board does not feel obliged to "spend every penny."

Alice Joselow, President of the Library's Board of Trustees, praised the Friends for its support and funding of programs and items for the Library. She stated that what the Friends contribute is significant and really matters to the Library and community. She also said that one of the top priorities on the long-range planning list is the creation of a permanent space in the Library at which to sell books on an ongoing basis, aside from periodic sales. Later in the meeting, she spoke about the successful programs in the Teen Room, which is filled with middle-schoolers from 2:30pm to 5:00pm and which provides a safe harbor for them during that time.

Other items of discussion:

Barbara Henninger indicated that the Friends successfully introduced a raffle at its October sale and offered baked goods at the December sale.

An attendee spoke of the importance of the internships and he and others indicated how much satisfaction was received from working in the Library during the school year and the continuing enjoyment derived from working part-time on weekends while pursuing higher education.

Director Karen LaRocca Fels mentioned the popular museum pass program funded by the Friends. Passes for free or discounted admission are procured by the Library from various museums and loaned to Library patrons. New passes are or soon will be available.

Barbara stated that election of the Board members is "rigged in a good way" and called for nomination from the floor and election of the current Board members, as follows: Barbara Henninger, President; Nancy deKoven, Vice President; Bonnie Zitofsky, Secretary; Frya Barnes, Treasurer. The nominations were made by Alice Joselow and seconded by Matthew Weiss, Vice President of the Library's Board of Trustees.

Barbara reported that there is now a cart full of assorted books, audio books, CDs and DVDs available for sale every Wednesday from 2:00pm to 4:00 pm in the Friends Corner.

Barbara also mentioned that the Friends recently reordered 50 Eco tote bags. These are available at the Circulation Desk for \$10 each and will be offered at book sales for that price and for \$15 when filled with books.

Robin Larido, Team Captain of Northeast Etsy Artists Association, spoke about her organization, some members of which will be returning to the Library on November 25 to do a “pop-up shop,” following the successful one held here in December of 2016. Robin’s team consists of 40 members who are local vendors of handmade and vintage goods that are sold individually on the Etsy website and also via craft fairs. The Etsy group will once again generously donate a portion of its receipts to the Friends.

The 2017 schedule for book sales has been set as follows:

Wednesday, May 3 – 4:00pm to 9:00pm
Thursday, May 4 – 4:00pm to 9:00pm
Wednesday, May 17 – 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Friday, June 23 – 12:00 noon to 6:00pm
Saturday, June 24 – 9:00am to 4:00pm
Thursday, October 19 – 1:00pm to 9:00pm
Friday, October 20 – 10:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday, October 21 – 9:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday, October 22 – 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Saturday, December 9 – 10:00am to 4:00pm

It was announced that the Friends will resume accepting donations of books and audio/video items beginning February 1.

Barbara Gill, a consultant in the fundraising field, has offered to present suggestions to the Friends’ Board at one of its upcoming Board meetings with regard to expanding membership and raising money.

Director Karen LaRocca Fels stated that she has been talking to the Ossining School District Superintendent about a summer program and assumes that the Friends will be contacted. The summer reading program has a participation rate of 20% and they are trying to increase the community’s interest.

A discussion ensued about volunteer help. Chris Surovich noted that anyone expressing interest to volunteer at the Library is referred to the Friends. It was suggested that perhaps an item can be added to the Director’s weekly newsletter; also, that a blast email can be sent to the members of the Friends.

Dennis Neuberger spoke of his personal connection to the Sunshine Children's Home. The Friends now provide books which are made available for family members to read to the children who reside at the home and which are delivered by Dennis.

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Other books not offered for sale by the Friends are delivered by Dennis to the Salvation Army, Goodwill and the Red Cross. And the Friends have an ongoing pickup arrangement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of 20+ boxes per trip. Dennis continues to look for other outlets to receive some of the overflow of the many books generously donated to the Friends.

Bonnie Zitofsky expressed thanks to Karen for arranging for the Library to provide the Friends with the book sale banners now available to be displayed on the pillars in the front and back of the building during a book sale.

It was noted that the Friends organization continues its advocacy of the proposed Library budget every year.

Additional comments were made concerning the beauty and uniqueness of the Library and positive experiences connected with it.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00, after a motion was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonnie Zitofsky
Secretary of the Friends' Board*

