

**Library Friends of Cook County Board of Directors Meeting  
June 11, 2018 at Grand Marais Public Library (GMPL)**

Present: Mary Beams, Jack Miller, Dennis Kaleta, Jan Smith, Agatha Armstrong, Mike Shelmeske, Lorrie Oswald, and Duane Hasegawa. Absent: None.

Attendees: Steve Harsin (GMPL) and new Library Friends member Donna Roles

Board President Mary Beams called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and unanimously approved without changes.

The minutes from the 5/14/18 board of directors meeting were reviewed. Jack Miller moved to approve the minutes without changes, and Dennis Kaleta seconded the motion. Ayes all.

Treasurer Lorrie Oswald's 4/18 and 5/18 reports were reviewed. Jan Smith moved to approve the treasurer's reports without changes, and Mike Shelmeske seconded the motion. Ayes all.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2018 Grants and Supplemental Grants.** The additional supplemental grants to GMPL and our school's libraries plus five community organizations involved in childhood education and reading programs were also included in the May treasurer's report. The libraries requested and received a total of \$20,821 plus a supplemental \$8900. The five community organizations received \$500 each. In 2018 Library Friends of Cook County granted a total of \$32,221 in support of our libraries and childhood reading.

All 2018 recipients received grant applications for next year. The deadline for submitting the applications is June 30, 2018.

**Agatha Armstrong has been in charge of our membership data.** A summary will be sent to our board members in a week. This will include last year's members who volunteered their time at our book sales event. We have over 260 members most of whom renew their membership at our annual book sales event.

**Plans for future book sales beyond 2018.** Most of the meeting pertained to future book sales and factors that have changed our process of book sorting, storing, and sales. For the past year our capacity to store books at Grand Marais City Hall has decreased. Consequently we discontinued our online sales of high valued books so we could have more book storage for our 2018 book sales. The Grand Marais recycling center is no longer able to accommodate large volumes of books that are not sold or stored for our

book sales. Communities outside of Cook County are also not accepting recycled books in large amounts. We do not have the capacity to transport recycled books out of Cook County. We will need to absorb costs for book disposal locally during the year and after our book sales. The opportunity to store and sort books at the City Hall facilities is no longer a certainty. There are facilities to store book boxes in Grand Marais, but we will incur additional rental expenses. We estimate that 20 to 25% of book sales revenue will go towards storage and disposal expenses.

With limited book storage, we discussed the significance of discontinuing all future book donations from our community. We reflected on the annual book sales event; it will be the 40<sup>th</sup> year in 2018.

Jan Smith moved to discontinue accepting book donations as of July 7, 2018. The motion included forming a subcommittee of Board members and GMPL library staff to communicate this information, its reasons, and alternatives to book donations. Agatha Armstrong seconded the motion. Ayes all.

Lorrie Oswald moved that we will discontinue annual book sales after 2018 for reasons cited above. Jack Miller seconded the motion. Ayes all.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

We discussed publicity plans for our August book sales. Donna Roles has volunteered to help with publicity along with our Board members and the list of volunteers from last year's sale. We will need to solicit alternative fundraising ideas from our membership and communicate the reasons for discontinuing the annual book sales event as we have previously had in the summer.

The subcommittee to communicate the July 7<sup>th</sup> date to end accepting books and publicity for our book sales will need to meet in the next two weeks.

Agatha Armstrong requested that we donate books for the Health Fair held in Grand Portage on June 23, 2018. The community would like gardening books, books of regional interest, and children's books. We agreed to donate boxes of books with these topics and Agatha will bring them to the event.

The Grand Marais Public Library will be hosting a community talk by guest Ellie Krug on June 23, 2018 who will be talking on "Living as Other in America: How to Bridge Our Divides". Library Friends will attend as a co-sponsor.

The Board unanimously approved to enter Mike Shelmeske's name on an application for the Friends Award sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Library Friends. Mike has been an important part of our organization for nearly two decades.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Monday July 9, 2018 at 5:15 pm at the Grand Marais Public Library.

Jack Miller moved to adjourn the meeting and Lorrie Oswald seconded the motion. We all adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Duane Hasegawa  
Secretary