

Friends of the Watertown Regional Library
Annual Meeting
October 25, 2015

President Jean Tangren called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM in the community room of the library. There were approximately 40 members present.

In an effort to speed up the meeting, minutes of the last annual meeting had been sent to members by email and copies were made available for those without email. Additions or corrections were asked for and the minutes were approved.

Shelly Alvine gave the treasurer's report. As of Sept 30, 2015, the Friends of the Library had a balance of \$13,650.63 with a grant of \$5,000 to the library towards the purchase of a new microfilm machine yet to be paid. Gifts given this year were a framed print in honor of former children's librarian Linda Bauman, shopping carts used by the patrons for holding their books, and wireless microphones which were used during the meeting. Money was also allocated for a retractable sign to be used for library programs off site, but that sign has not yet been purchased. The treasurer's report was accepted after a motion by Julie Moes and a second by Erland Carlson.

Erland Carlson reported on the audit of the books. He gave kudos to Shelly Alvine for having a separate line item to show funds allocated but not yet spent (such as the grant pending for the microfilm machine.)

Shelly Alvine then presented the budget for the 2016 year. The budget shows an anticipated revenue of \$9,800 and anticipated expenses of \$9,675. Penny Mack made the motion to accept this budget, John Tangren seconded and the motion was approved.

Committee reports

Program Committee:

Jane Miner reported that since Maria Gruener was bringing in a wide variety of programs sponsored by the library itself, the committee decided to concentrate its efforts in making use of the library's film license and sponsoring two film festivals this year. In February, the Friends hosted a "Feel Good Film Festival" for 3 Sunday afternoons, showing: *The Hundred Foot Journey*, *Crossing Delancey* and *Smoke Signals*. The committee is currently sponsoring a "Fall Film Festival" with one film in September (*The Straight Story*), October (*5 Flights Up*), and upcoming in November (*The Mighty*) to conclude the series.

Book Sale Committee:

Myron Retzer announced that the 2016 book sale will be held during National Library Week on April 10-16. Changes will be made to the length of the sale. Set-up will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The regular book sale will be held on Friday and Saturday. And the traditional "bag sale" will take place on Sunday instead of Monday as has been done in the past. Hopefully, this will allow more families and out-of-town buyers to attend the bag sale. Tear-down will be on Monday morning. Mr. Retzer pointed out that the book sale has made it possible for the Friends group to give \$50,000 to the library over the past decade.

Summer Outreach Committee:

Penny and Doug Mack and their seven volunteers read books to 36 students from grades 1 - 6, even though they were expecting students from grades 1-3 only. This outreach took place at Roosevelt Elementary School with students from the Kidscope program of the Boys and Girls Club. Each child received a book mark, two books, and an ice cream treat.

Library Director Mike Mullin gave an update on the library. He thanked the group for being Friends. In addition to the financial support given by the Friends, the library appreciates supporters influencing the City Council in its support as well. The Friends group has become a conduit for receiving funds from other entities. For example, the library will soon be getting a donated sculpture that will be made possible through the Friends' non-profit status. Mr. Mullin talked about features of the new software at the library and asked for a show of hands to see if there was an interest in having classes taught to show how these new features work. He asked for input from the group on what the library could do to improve and introduced two members of the Library Board --Jackie Baxter, current board member, and Deb Shephard who will be officially appointed at the November City Council meeting.

At this point the business meeting was adjourned. Coffee and cookies were served before a panel discussion program featuring local authors. Deb Shephard led a discussion with Gary Westgard and Colleen Ehresman about their writing backgrounds, methods, and roads to publishing. Other members of the audience offered questions and comments about their writing .

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Moore
Secretary