

**MINUTES**  
**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**February 8, 2022**

**I. Call to Order**

President Mary Welken called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. at Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee, GA.

Board members present were: Marlene Cannon, Suzanne Carter, Rose Carter, Judith Lee, Darlene Pilcher, Jim Reynolds, Elaine Roberts, Gigi Smith, Delores Staton, Mary Welken, and Linda Worl. Assistant Branch Manager Kevin Kirby from MRL was present. Visitors from Ferst Readers included Anna Dancu and Janice Cochran.

Board members not present: Marcia Aunspaugh and Kathy Day.

**II. President's Report**

President Welken welcomed all to the meeting, including visitors Anna Dancu and Janice Cochran. She also introduced Kevin Kirby, new assistant branch manager of MRL. She thanked Linda Worl for conducting the December meeting in her absence.

**III. Minutes**

The minutes of the December 14, 2021 board meeting were presented by Suzanne Carter. Jim Reynolds moved that the minutes be accepted as presented; motion was seconded by Darlene Pilcher; passed unanimously.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Jim Reynolds distributed the Treasurer's Report for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 in chart form. Total income was **\$9,309**. Total expenses were **\$15,830**. Unencumbered funds total approximately **\$18,000**. The financial report was accepted.

Jim attended the January 18, 2022 Towns County Library Board meeting and shared activities from FOLTC, including library support, status of bookstores, and election of officers. He reported on the FY22 General Usage Statistics for both Towns County libraries presented by the library board. The county did not approve additional funding for adding more open days at MRL at this time.

**V. Library Report**

Marlene Cannon shared that there have been a number of events at the libraries in the last quarter, including the mural unveiling in October and the current family bake off that is going well. Staff took time off from activities in January. This quarter includes STEAM projects directed by Kevin Kirby. The birdfeeder pine cone project will be conducted today, and on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> the Great Backyard Bird Count will be introduced for adults. Marlene discussed the new partnership with Bound Book Store in Blairsville, including a community read in March. A student from YHC will be working at MRL as part of a work study program. First Readers read to children at the libraries twice a month.

#### **VI. Book Bunch 'n Lunch**

Gigi Smith reported the February 2022 book will be Dad is Fat by Jim Gaffigan; discussion leader, Tammy Wells. The March book will be Return from Siberia by John Shallman; discussion leader, Delores Staton. Multiple copies of the chosen titles are available at the library circulation desks for book club members.

#### **VII. Corresponding Secretary**

Judith Lee reported that thank you letters were sent to The Dancu Foundation, Jim and May Edwards, and Doris Tilly. Board members need to inform her if letters need to be sent to additional people. Judith pointed out that the bylaws include job duties for this position that no longer apply (adopt-an-author program).

#### **VIII. Bookstore/Book Sales**

Marcia Aunspaugh was not available to present a report.

#### **IX. Bake and Pie Sales**

There is no chairperson for this committee and no plans at present for future book or bake sales.

#### **X. Membership**

Rose Carter stated that she is using Mail Chimp (a free online service) to send newsletters, emails, and letters to the membership. She is creating a new spreadsheet to include all members and can sort to send emails to different categories of membership (such as by expiration date). Currently there are 64 new members for 2022. It was decided that she will send out quarterly membership renewal notices. It was decided to correct information on the yellow Thank You for Your Support postcards that are sent to new members and will be reprinted. Suzanne Carter will handle the correction/reprint.

#### **XI. Newsletter**

Darlene Pilcher reminded everyone that the next newsletter deadline is the end of April for the Spring Newsletter.

## **XII. Publicity**

Suzanne Carter stated board members are welcome to suggest or write articles for the newspapers. Any articles first need to be sent to Suzanne for forwarding to the newspaper. She actively maintains the FOLTC Facebook page and sends current information to Robert Harford, webmaster for the FOLTC website.

## **XIII. Old Business**

- a. Book Donations – It was decided that people can donate small numbers of books to TCPL for the bookstore. Darlene made a motion to purchase a rolling bin to put in the library foyer to cost no more than \$300. The motion was seconded by Rose Carter and passed unanimously. Large donations will need to be taken to MRL on monthly donation dates. Linda Worl requested that Rose Carter send monthly emails to the membership about book donation days.
- b. Bookshelves – Mary Welken stated that shelving (in the bookstores and storage shed) purchased by FOLTC needs to be added to the Partnership Agreement. Marlene Cannon will share this with Director Lee.
- c. Vice President Position – Mary Welken stated that the VP position is still open. Rose Carter nominated Anna Dancu to serve as VP for 2022. The motion was seconded by Darlene Pilcher and was passed unanimously.

## **XIV. New Business**

- a. Better World Books – The agreement with Better World Books will expire in April. As unsold books have not been sent to them in some time, it was decided to leave it dormant until the need arises in the future.
- b. Peach State Federal Credit Union – The new contact person for the credit union is Brooke Westbrook, [bwestbrook@peachstatefcu.org](mailto:bwestbrook@peachstatefcu.org).
- c. Towns County Library Board Meetings – Jim Reynolds is being considered to serve on the Towns County Library Board and would not be able to act as FOLTC representative at meetings. Suzanne Carter will attend the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at TCPL at 10:00. Mary Welken will attend the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at MRL at 10:00.
- d. 2022 Partnership Agreement between MRLS and FOLTC – The partnership agreement was signed by both parties with no changes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. by President Mary Welken.  
The next meeting will be April 12, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at MRL.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Carter, Publicity Chair

APPROVED April 12, 2022