

MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES OF TOWNS COUNTY
BOARD MEETING
June 6, 2023

I. Call to Order

President Mary Welken called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at Towns County Public Library, Hiawassee, Georgia.

Board members present were: Marcia Aunspaugh, Rose Carter, Suzanne Carter, Rose Mary Crook, Kathy Day, Barbara Hale, Darlene Pilcher, Jim Reynolds, Gigi Smith, and Mary Welken. Director, Heath Lee, and Friends, Gary and Linda Dye were also present.

Board members not present: Judith Lee, Elaine Roberts, and Delores Staton.

II. Welcome

Mary Welken welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. Minutes

The minutes of the April, 2023 board meeting were presented by Kathy Day. Barbara Hale moved that the minutes be accepted; motion was seconded by Suzanne Carter; passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Jim Reynolds provided the Treasurer's Report for the period of January 1 - May 31, 2023. Beginning balance was **\$21,995.70**. Total income to date was **\$4,190.55**. Total expenses from January 1 – May 31, 2023 were **\$6,412.00**. The balance as of March 31, 2023 is **\$19,810.38**, with encumbered funds of **\$6,100.00** and with unencumbered funds of **\$13,710.38**. The financial report was accepted.

V. Library Report

Heath Lee reported on recent staffing and operating hours:

- Marlene Cannon has transferred to Union County Library. Because this is the busiest branch in the system, they needed a senior and experienced person to manage that branch.
- A review of staffing at the end of the fiscal year led to the decision to split the two Towns County branches up for each to have its own branch manager. Ann Lewis is the branch manager at Mountain Regional and Kevin Kirby is the branch manager at Towns County. The data and usage indicates a distinct difference in the clientele at each branch and these decisions worked well within the budget.

- MRL will be open Monday – Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- TCPL will be open Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

VI. Book Bunch ‘n Lunch

The June book selection will be West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge; discussion leader – Delores Staton. The July selection will be The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead; discussion leader – Virginia Tinsley. Multiple copies of the chosen titles are available at the library circulation desks for book club members.

VII. Corresponding Secretary

Judith Lee did not attend.

VIII. Bookstore/Book Sales

Marcia Aunspaugh reported the book sale was successful in reducing the books filling the shed. Income generated by the sale was down from last year due to the month it was held. However it was necessary to proceed with a sale because the storage shed was filled beyond capacity. Unsold books were moved from the tables to the shelves and books from the shelves were given to Doug Strain and Elaine Roberts for the Little Free Libraries in Young Harris and Hiwassee respectively. Others were given to Jane Farrell for Branan Lodge and the Humane Society’s Mountain Shelter Thrift Store. Darlene Pilcher reported that Haley Dyer, with Union County Schools will take leftover books for distribution at Trunk and Treat in the fall.

IX. Bake Sales

Darlene Pilcher has volunteered to chair the Bake Sale with the help of Rose Carter and Rose Mary Crook.

X. Membership

Rose Carter reported there are 105 current members as follows: 4 Business, 35 Individual, 21 Family, 7 Sponsor, 16 Donor, 13 Patron, 3 Honorary, and 6 Life. She is going to start sending renewal reminder notices in USPS mail to see if that generates a greater response.

A fundraising idea was expressed that FOLTC man a paid parking lot at MRL on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of future seafood festivals in Young Harris. Parking is at a premium and it would be an easy way to generate funds.

XI. Newsletter

Darlene Pilcher stated that the deadline for August newsletter articles is July 31st. She thanked everyone for submitting their articles as requested using the Georgia font, size 12.

XII. Publicity

Suzanne Carter continues to provide updates to the FOLTC website (www.foltc.com), the FaceBook page, and provides articles to the newspaper promoting our activities. She had new generic Book Sale signs printed for use with the most recent book sale.

XIII. Old Business

- May Book Sale – see above under Bookstore/Book Sales
- Commissioner's Matching Grant – this year's check was presented to Heath Lee for the libraries.
- 2023 National Library Worker Day
\$25 Ingles gift cards were presented to staff on April 25th

XIV. New Business

- Fall Bake Sale – will be put on the agenda for August
- Update to Bylaws
Mary Welken, Barbara Hale, and Suzanne Carter will review the bylaws and present any needed changes.
- Advocates for libraries
Mary Welken distributed lists of local and state contacts as resources for FOLTC members to advocate for our libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. by Mary Welken.

Approved August 8, 2023