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FRIENDS OF THE DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

MINUTES FOR THE JULY 11, 2024 MEETING

The quarterly meeting of the Board was held on July 11 at the North Branch Library and was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

Board Members in attendance were: Teri Lupo, President; Nancy Kamman; Corrie Pelc, Communications Director; Barbara Reiser, Vice President; Jennifer Bekker, Director of Libraries; Richard Bryson, Membership Director; Carol Nance; Linda Burke; Eva Poole, Treasurer; Linda Touraine, Recording Secretary; and Joyce Bray.

Board Members not in attendance: Philip Baker, Ray Stephens and Tom Reedy.

Others in attendance: Haley Phillips, Library Outreach Coordinator

The minutes for the April 11, 2024 meeting had been circulated to the board members via email. Eva made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated that was seconded by Nancy.

Eva Poole, Treasurer, gave her financial report covering April 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024 activities. The beginning balance as of March 29, 2024 was \$33,008.47; the income for the 2nd quarter was \$8,027.58; disbursements for the 2nd quarter were \$531.76; leaving a bank balance of \$40,504.29 on June 28, 2024. Eva mentioned that the income figures do not include the sales (\$633.90) made to through PayPal since that money has not been transferred to the bank yet. There were no questions regarding the report. Corrie recommended the report be accepted and Teri, seconded. The report will be attached to the minutes

President Teri Lupo reported The Friends had received a very nice thank you, that she read to the board, from the Rotary Club for the donation we made to their reading project earlier in the year.

Barbara Reiser, Vice-President, and Manager of Book Store, reported we will be continuing with the current hours for the book store and that there has been a shortage of boxes. She also explained that the store room has not been available since with the North Branch remodeling project has needed to use the room for equipment and supplies storage. As a result, the Texas Book Consignment have not been able to go through the books for their sell of which we receive a percentage.

Jennifer Bekker, Director of Libraries, reported that the interior updating of the North Branch is almost complete and the new roof is complete. The outside texturing and painting to begin next week. Customers will be inconvenienced for the remainder of the month since the drive-up book drop will be closed as well as the drive way behind the building. The Emily Fowler project of a conference room and new study carrels has been completed and is just waiting on the acquisition of furniture. Jennifer reported that 1,943 individuals had registered for the Summer

Reading Challenge (Adventure Begins at Your Library) and thus far there has been a completion rate of 49.7%.

Haley Phillips, Library Outreach Coordinator, reported on the 'Moving Stories' project that the Library and Friends are sponsoring. A second distribution has taken place. Haley mentioned she had been approached by another organization about being a participant in the project. Volunteers are still needed for this project. Haley mentioned the suggestion to adding a stamp or sticker to all the books in the project that says 'Donated by the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.' This would be a way of putting the Friends name out to the public.

Haley also reported that the Emily Fowler Library Foundation Between the Lines tattoo fundraiser had raised \$1,284.57 on the second event for the Foundation. A third event will take place in the Fall.

Jennifer mentioned the status of the various 2024 Library Projects. She will send the sheet of the projects to board members after the meeting.

Jennifer also mentioned the PLANT (Public Library Administrators of North Texas) meeting held in June with a subject of Friends and Foundations Summit was well attended and received. She recommends that at the next one for Friends and Foundations, Denton send one or two representatives. It is a good event for the exchange of ideas between other Friends group in the area.

Jennifer also mentioned there is one Library Board member that has suggested the Friends group create an author fundraiser series that would be co-sponsored by the Library and the Friends. There was limited discussion at the meeting but is suggested to bring the subject up at a later meeting.

Jennifer announced that Rebecca, North Branch Manager, had received a \$75,000 grant from the Texas State Library. The grant will update the computer area so that customers may scan their documents in privacy.

Final item from Jennifer was announcing the change in the South Branch Library hours and the Forge Makerspace. The South Branch hours to be: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Forge Makerspace is reducing their walk-in hours a little but will now be available four (4) days a week rather than three (3) days.

Richard Bryson, Membership Director, reported we have some 231 paid members but it is a little less than his report in April. He also reported we had received enough in dues to cover the cost of the mail out campaign. He is contemplating doing another mailout but is hesitant with the cost and knowing the best area to include. He also reported he still does the email to those members whose membership is up for renewal. The response for renewals from this is so-so. Haley commented she is meeting with the Robson Ranch in the Fall and maybe we could have a card sign up at that event. Once she has the date of that meeting, she will let us know so we can decide about a sign-up project.

Corrie Pelc, Communications Director, distributed her report prior to the meeting. The Facebook again showed an increase in followers to 1,184 and a cumulative reach of 26,721. Corrie reported she got the Spring 2024 Newsletter out around May 7. The Summer Newsletter will go out before the August Book Sale. She has the Friends registered for the North Texas Giving Day on September 19 with a goal, again, of \$1,000. Corrie reported that the 1st Saturday Donation Drive was held June 1 as well as on July 6. Received donations both days but not huge amounts. May want to rethink the strategy for this project. She announced the upcoming Karaoke Fundraiser to take place July 18, at Game Changers. She is still working on an Instagram account and will contact schools for ideas to update the Friends logo. Corrie presented an idea for new sales of our book bags that would involve an organization sponsoring the production of the bags. There was limited discussion of the idea but no formal vote was taken. (Corrie's full report will be attached to the minutes.)

Under New Business:

The suggestion of closing the Friends Book Store, Second Hand Prose, at the North Branch was brought up. There was limited discussion on the pros and cons of remaining open or closing. A quick survey was taken of members in attendance with their vote. There was not a definite decision reached. The subject will be brought up at another meeting later.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M. on the motion of Teri, seconded by Corrie.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Touraine, Recording Secretary