

FRIENDS OF THE PAMLICO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
August 26th, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Kathy Baradyn, Rich and Carolyn Bartz, Bonnie Cap, Kat Clowers, Jennie DeStefano, Dawn and Walter Hoyle, Caitlin Kuhn, Carol McAdoo, Brenda and Dr. Vernon Rose, Dr. Josh Rose, Priscilla and RK Seals, Ann Whitman, Walter and Peg Vick

**Bonnie** called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00pm. She introduced Dr. Josh Rose as representing the Board, Caitlin Kuhn as Branch Manager, and Kat Clowers as Regional Director. She described the meeting as taking care of FOL business first, with the majority of the meeting dedicated to an in-depth view of the plans for the stand-alone library to date.

The March 11th, 2021 minutes had been emailed to all members. Bonnie asked for any additions or corrections. Since there were none, Rich made a motion to accept the minutes as presented with Peg seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**Carolyn** presented the budget update. The FOL has a total of \$92,977.30 in its accounts. Donations of \$5,241.72, along with \$2,800 in internet book sales were noted.

**Peg** presented the Membership report noting that the addition of 20 new members has brought the total membership to an all-time high. She mentioned that some past members have yet to send in their 2021 membership donations.

**Peg** has also been instrumental in writing and inquiring about grants available for construction purposes. She noted that some grant applications need to come through the county which she said should be fully invested in assisting in the grant application process.

Due to Covid restrictions, **Carol** reported that social events had been cancelled during the past year. She was hopeful that the Friends could support the Trunk and Treat children's event. This event involved members decorating the trunks of their cars in the parking lot and children going trick or treating from car to car. The Friends has provided the candy and other items for this event in the past.

**Bonnie** introduced the concept of various teams needed for the future. These include a **Membership Team** to maintain membership lists, send out membership letters and mail or email thank-yous for donations. A **FOL**

**Program Team** would schedule programs of interest to the members for each meeting. These may include talks by local authors, a discussion of the planned library gardens with Master Gardeners, and potential talks by local farmers, among others. An **Event Planning Team** would schedule and implement fund-raising activities such as the current book sales, but also other major fund-raising activities to raise the needed funds for the future library. Right now, the FOL is just asking members to consider where their skills and interests lie. However, two members did sign up on the clipboard that circulated: Priscilla Seals for Membership and Kathy Baradyn for the Event Planning Team. Thank you! Additional members for each team are welcomed.

**Caitlin** introduced Willow Redd as the newest member of the library staff. She then presented an extensive list of events the library staff has planned for September. On-going programs include pre-school story time by Fran Benninger on Fridays at 10:00, Friday Games Corner for young adults, and Thursday's computer classes mostly for adults. Other events include a "Black-out Poetry" activity for young adults on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, a Jeopardy game on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, a family movie on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> with an accompanying hot dog food truck, recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, a Greek mythology event with costumes, snacks and Greek sword fighting (note – swords are long balloons!), and art classes, along with several other activities. Quite a full month!

**Rich** reported that we started this year with a balance of approximately \$55,000 left from the original grant that allowed the Friends to buy the former Hardees site. The purchase of AC units, along with insurance payments, electrical hook-up and electricity bills, and payment of various building plans and other expenses, will result in the full balance being used by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, as required by the state agency that provided the original funding. Rich noted that the supply chain has been disrupted by Covid resulting in the AC unit being back ordered, but an agreement with Trane has us on a hopeful track to receive the units by October when installation will be accomplished by a local company. He also noted that a new AC unit has been installed in the storage unit, while several appliances from the new library site have gone to a local business which donated \$1,200 to the FOL. Rich has also posted all seminal articles and FOL monthly activities to the FOL website for members to access.

He also suggested pursuing the concept of approaching the County Commissioners concerning the potential use of the county-owned land behind the neighboring ABC store to augment garden space planned for the new site (see below).

**Walter Vick** had prepared large, detailed boards presenting a bird's eye view of the interior of the new library as well as an elevation of the side of the library that fronts Rte. 55. He walked us through the library from the entrance through the internet café and young adult sections which are separated from the adult, quieter area by a glass wall that will feature screens of local scenes. The circulation desk will abut a storage space from which patrons can borrow laptops for use in the library. Two small study rooms for about six people each are proposed, while other individual areas can be used for one-on-one tutoring or for those patrons using the borrowed laptops. The Children's room will have a small platform for story time or small presentations. Staff areas and a FOL room are included in the plan. An exhibition area will provide space for various displays.

A meeting room which can be divided into two smaller rooms, along with a small kitchen and restrooms will be available for non-profit groups, community groups, and others to use. This area can be used after library hours as the design allows for access while the library space can be locked. A portable, fold-up stage is included.

The design incorporates all-natural lighting and sensors that will turn lighting on and off as needed during the day and evening, saving energy and reducing energy costs. Solar panels will provide energy while a rainwater harvesting system will provide water for the restroom facilities.

Gardens are planned that will allow children to plant seeds, care for the plants and harvest the produce, which can be distributed to community residents.

There will be space outside to house the current storage unit, the Book Mobile and for deliveries.

A mock-up of a sign that will have a digital display of library events and notices has been tested for visibility from the road.

**Kat** answered a question concerning whether enough space had been allocated for books rather than other services by noting that additional shelving is to be incorporated in the plan. She noted that our library's circulation reflects a population of 20,000 while our county's population is approximately 13,000 and that our circulation is one of the highest in the state, regardless of population. She also noted that State Commissioners were excited about this project.

**Walter** answered a question about whether a library had a place in our current landscape, noting that it was a civic responsibility to provide literacy opportunities to its citizens. In addition, this site will provide an oasis in the strip along Rte. 55.

A question was raised concerning when the fund-raising campaign would begin. Although a specific date hasn't been set yet, it is anticipated that plans will be made within a year.

**Bonnie** then spoke about the parameters of the **FOL partnership with Yawl's café to provide a food booth at the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival in Oriental during the weekend of October 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**. A request for volunteers to help set up, work on Saturday, and breakdown the booth (probably Saturday afternoon) will be sent in mid-September. **The FOL will need a tent and tables which members can hopefully provide.**

She also talked about the next **Book Sale** that will be conducted **during library hours on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Volunteers to set up on Thursday and Friday, as well as be present in both the library and the storage unit during the sale days, will be needed. **A request for volunteers will be emailed to members in early October.**

Since there was no other business to conduct or questions or concerns to be addressed Bonnie asked for a motion to adjourn. Peg made the motion, Rich seconded and a vote to adjourn was approved. Bonnie thanked all for attending and urged everyone to talk with family members, neighbors, and club/organization members about the new library and opportunities to assist in bringing the plans to fruition.