

Friends of the Summerville Library (FOSL)

June 9, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Friends of the Summerville Library met on Tuesday, June 9, 2015. Autumn Reid, President called the meeting to called to order at 7:00 pm.

In Attendance:

Autumn Reid, President
Carol Brummett, Vice President
Ellen Hyatt, Summerville Writers Guild Liaison
Cathy Coffey, Membership/Book Sale
Becky Westfall, Library Liaison
Carole Brier, Secretary
Beverly Brockman, Member
Pamela Ward, Fund Raising/Events
Debbie Lodge, Chair Advocacy Committee
Harriet Little, Member
Mevelyn Williams, Member
Gail Masocco, Member

Agenda:

1. President and Publicity reports (Reid)
2. Treasurer's report (Gleason)
3. Library Liaison report (Westfall)
4. Advocacy Committee (Lodge)
5. Membership Committee report (Coffey)
6. Book Sale report (Coffey)
7. Fundraising/Events Committee (Ward)
8. Hospitality Committee report (Brummett)
10. Summerville Writers Guild Liaison (Hyatt)
11. Unfinished business (Brummett)
12. New business (Brummett)
13. Upcoming meetings/event dates
14. Adjournment

President's Report (Reid)

- Webpage and calendar updates have occurred.
- We have received memorial donations honoring James Moore. The total will be available at the next general meeting.
- We were approached to apply for a grant with the Story Board America Project. The Project's goal is to have individuals record their own unique stories. If the Grant is received the funds will go toward archiving and further continuance of the project. When finished selected stories will become part of Special Collections. This is a pilot program that has been well received in Beaufort County. We were asked to come on board as a non-profit agency and apply for this Grant through Coastal Community. We have applied for a \$10,000 grant.

- May minutes were approved. Motion made by Ellen Hyatt, seconded by Cathy Coffee. Minutes will be filed as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (Gleason)

- Treasurer's report of income and expenses is attached to these minutes.
- The cost of the storage unit increased to \$108 from \$98.
- D.R.E.A.M. membership has been paid
- Abunda has left the book business. They have some of our books and they will continue to try and sell them. However, they will not get any new books from us.

Library Report to Friends of the Summerville Library (Westfall)

Lives Change @ Your Library!

- Ellen E. Hyatt's next article will be about Summer Reading.

Library News

- The DCL Budget Hearing with County Council went very well. Mr. Jim Neal, chairman of the DCL board made a short, sweet, and "to-the-point" presentation that was very well-received by the Council. The request for sustaining our budget at the current level + \$25,000 for legal fees associated with launching a referendum passed. Thank you to all the Friends members who showed up in STG to support the library during the budget hearing!
- Summer Reading is off to a GREAT start! We are 'feeling the love' as the library has been very busy since school ended. Families are picnicking on the tables after story time. Teens have been using our study tables to play cards, tutors continue to help students, and our sign-ups for reading programs are awesome. Our big Kick-Off program with Grey Seal Puppets was held on Thursday, 6/4/15, with over 170 in attendance. What a fun professional program! The presentation engaged children of all ages. As a staff, we feel very positive about our first full week.
- FYI for numbers folks: Over 1300 people used the library on Monday, 6/1/15, and on Thursday 6/4/15!
- Don't forget that **Summer Reading is for Everyone!** You can participate in the Adult Summer Reading Club by completing 5-in-a-row BINGO, then submitting your card to the library staff for entry in our prize drawings at the end of June and July. (I will have cards available at the meeting.)

Staff Report:

- Tomorrow we will say goodbye to Karen DeWaele, who has been working with us since she was 18 years old as a shelver, circulation desk staffer, and most recently in children's services. We have been advertising for this position and hope to have a selection in the next week or so.

Upcoming Programs:

- We have so many special programs going on during the summer that the library has put out a brochure listing them all. (I will have brochures available at the meeting.)

Holiday closing:

- July 3 & 4 – Fourth of July Closings.

Membership Committee/Book Sale (Coffey)

Membership:

- During May, we received a total of 6 new memberships, 4 during the book sale, and 2 by mail.

- There were 25 renewals received, 16 by mail and 9 during the book sale.
- Donations made at the book sale totaled \$110.00
- A total of \$555.00 was collected.

Book Sale:

- There isn't anything new for me to report on the May book sale. The American Legion Hall has been secured for the Sept book sale which will be Sept 11th, 12th and 13th. I am continuing to update the book sale handbook which will be done before the Sept sale.

Summerville Writers Guild Liaison: (Hyatt)

- Nothing to report at this meeting.

Events/Fundraising: (Ward)

- The Mary Alice Monroe tea was a huge success! We received many compliments from Mary Alice, her publisher and publicist. Buzzy, her bookseller was very pleased with our sales!
- As a community event with Cypress Gardens we endeavored to keep costs as low as possible. We exceeded our attendance to 140 guests and our total expenses were \$1005.00. We knew we made \$500.00 on our previous tea. We had not expected to make anything on that event. This helped to keep the tea for Mary Alice possible.
- \$394.00 were spent just on linens and china for 17 round tables and 6 long tables. China cups, plates, and saucers were rented for 140. Our water glasses were loaned to us at no cost. These glasses have been offered to us for a small donation for future events. There are 120 glasses.
- We were very pleased with the service at the rental company on meeting street. Because of the mishap with Simply Elegant, Snyders help us put together our rentals three days before the event. Because they did not have our colors in the cheaper cloth, they gave us silks for the same price. The shiny silk corals and blues were just beautiful. The originally cost \$24.00 a table and they let us have them for \$8.00 apiece. We have returned to use them again for next Sunday.
- The remainder of our expenses covered food and drink for 140, paper products, printed posters, menu cards, some flowers, etc. Mary Alice was pleased with her sales and money to Cypress covered the building rental, advertising, fresh flowers for every table and sound system. The usually rents for \$2600 for Sundays in May.
- I attended the launch party for Mary Alice on the Monday night after our Sunday event and Mary Alice told me our tea was very special to her. I can tell you our event was better and more organized than the one at the Aquarium. I received a call the following morning from Kathie Bennett who was driving to Atlanta. She called to personally thank us and also spent 45 minutes during her drive going over a list of future authors coming up for literary tours. Kathie asked if I would plan a tea for next year for Mary Alice's new book about a Charleston wedding. We discussed ideas. She called us gems on the literary scene. Mare Alice also made the announcement that her book, *The Beach House*, will be a lifetime movie produced by Andi McDowell and starring Andi.
- I would personally like to thank everyone who volunteered their time for this event. Everyone made it all happen. The Berkeley Friends thank you for allowing them to participate as volunteers. We had a lot to do in a very short time and it went smoothly and beautifully. The only way it could have gone better is if we had hired a wait and kitchen staff.

- Cypress Gardens did a lovely job providing flowers for us, but Autumn decorated them beautifully in her mother's antique Mason jar collection. We thank her mother! Cypress was so pleased with the event that Heather said anytime we wanted to return please call them! Kelli was asked to sell her cookies in their gift shop!

Moving On...Dorothea Benton Frank's Event

- Tickets are still on sale for Sunday's literary tea at Grace Lutheran. Tickets sales were slow at first, but we added signage on Trolley and Main and the church added info on their sign. Dorothea announced the event on her website. We are now at the 100 ticket range. Autumn and I met with the ladies at Grace Lutheran and everything is set and ready. Two ladies will be on hand to assist of with anything we need at the church. Chairs and long tables are being place for us by the members of the church. They have been very accommodating and I recommend using their facility for any future event.
- Remember this is a tea reception like we have had at the library, not a seated table event. We will not be using real china for the first time. We came up with a fun summer beach themed tea event. Colors are aqua, bright red, and white. All the Single Ladies will be playing when guests arrive.

Volunteers for Dottie:

- Saturday afternoon at 1 pm, volunteers will be preparing last minute food items at my home on 311 White Gables Drive in White Gables. For directions you can call me. A couple of people volunteered to come Saturday, Carol, Gail, Mevelyn, Kelly and a couple more.

Sunday Schedule:

- Kelli and I will arrive at the church with Charles at 11 am and we will begin unloading. I am delivering food on Saturday evening to the kitchen too.
- If you are volunteering for pre event work, please come at noon. We do have decorations, flowers, books and set up to complete
- If you are helping with the buffet and tea stations during the event, etc. Please arrive no later than 2pm. People come early and will start arriving after 2.
- This event is much easier compared to Cypress and requires less volunteers and less work. We do need volunteers to stay after the event to help clean. Cleaning should be quick. Everything is disposable except buffet trays, dishes, etc. We do want to leave the room and kitchen in great shape so we can use this wonderful space again.
- We will be using the huge kitchen for our set up and final food preparations. We have the usual buffet tables and a separate ta and water station. The FOSL table will be in the entrance area where tickets will be taken and books given. Autumn will post names of guest sin each book as they arrive. A signing table and bookseller table will be set up inside the room.
- Dorothea will be attending the event with her daughter on the tour. She had certain requirements that we have arranged, including a special chair for signing and a special writing pen. I know we will reach our goal of 100 or more for Sunday and end first literary tea series (four wonderful authors and teas) with a bank!!! We are now making money on this upcoming event. All expenses and book sales for Dorothea are covered.
- It has been my pleasure to help put together the literary tea series for the Friends and to team up with Autumn in making it such a success. I would like to thank Rebecca and the library staff for participating and helping make these events possible too. I think Autumn and I have learned a lot about authors and their publishers, publicists, and booksellers.

We have been asked by author Kim Boykin to speak about putting on literary events at a convention for librarians after Kathie Bennett told her what a great series we put together. I think we have done a great job putting Summerville Friends on the literary track. Authors are waiting in the wings to be next!

- Ellen Hyatt suggested that at a future event attendees be asked to bring their own teacup. Discussion followed.

Advocacy Committee Report for May, 2015 – Debbie Lodge, Advocacy Committee Chair

- In May the following FOSL Bard members attended the Dorchester County Council meeting held in St George: Autumn Reid, President, Carol Brummett, Vice President; Carole Brier, Secretary; Anne Gleason, Treasurer; and Cathy Coffey, At Large Member. In addition, I attended as Advocacy Chair and Rebecca Westfall, Branch Manager represented the Summerville Branch. This year's budget request presentation was given by James Neal, President of the Library Board of Directors. Normally the presentation would have been made by the Library Director Jut Jennie Redmond was out of town. Lynn Crook, the Dorchester County Library's Business Manager also attended.
- Mr. Neal gave a brief presentation delineating the services of the library which extend far beyond providing books. He spoke of the inadequacy of the current facilities at the Summerville Branch and of the increasing population and the concurrent increase in demand for more and better library services. He Concluded by not asking for an increase in the library's budget but rather just to maintain the level of funding that the library currently has. Mr. Neal went on to mention the need for a bond referendum to build a new facility and said he would rather say at the current level of funding so that those savings could be applied toward a successful campaign for the referendum and subsequent completions of a new facility.
- All those representing the library were pleasantly surprised that the County Council members did not ask for additional supporting arguments for the bond referendum but instead were most supportive of the idea. Jay Byers, District 7 Representative and David Chinnis, County Council Chair were especially expressive in their agreement that the time has come for a new facility.
- With the County Council and the Library Board in support of the referendum, this leaves the Friends of the Summerville Library in a supportive role waiting to assist in whatever capacity needed. Since the formal campaign for the Bond Referendum will not commence for about a year, it is up to us to spend this time raising awareness of the library and the need for a new facility. I hope to call the first meeting of the Advocacy Committee in the near future and have added Autumn Reid as a member. I would like to recruit Ellen Hyatt who is doing a wonderful job of highlighting the library through her articles to the Summerville Journal Scene. David Rison, past Advocacy Chair and Janet Rosenzweig, one of the biggest champions of libraries I know have already committed to being on the committee. Becky has also suggested several of her library patrons as possible members. If any of you would like to participate or know of someone who might be interested please let me know.

Accomplishments of 2014-2105: a quick glance over the past year

- Sponsored/assisted with refreshments to library programs: 2014 Summer reading, Paul Leonard, Mary Alice Monroe, National Library Week, Banned Book Week, Business After Hours event
- Purchased EBSCO subscriptions, Funded Book Page

- Partial funding for a display island furniture in collaboration with Rotary Club
- Donated and subscribed to organizations such as South Carolina Academy of Authors, Humanities Council, Friends of the Library
- Continued Sponsorship of Romance Readers and It's a Mystery to Me Book Clubs
- Expanded our Gigantic Book Sales
- Collaborated with the community and continued our ongoing outreach and increased awareness of FOSL and Summerville Library – through collaboration with American Legion, Summerville D.R.E.A.M. (Third Thursdays)
- Coordinated multiple community programs/fundraisers – Olivia deBelle Byrd, Judy Watts, Mary Alice Monroe, & Dorothea Benton Frank
- Applied for a grant to serve our community with a program offered in special collections
- Greened the library for the holidays
- Hosted a staff luncheon to show our appreciation for all of our dedicated librarians and staff.

Discussion:

- Discussion ensued concerning using the accomplishments of the organization to encourage membership participation.
- The need to encourage younger people to participate in FOSL.
- Discussion about holding an event related to new mothers to foster younger membership participation.

Nominating Committee: (Hyatt)

- The Nominating Committee was: Ellen Hyatt, Gail Masocco, Autumn Reid
- The slate: Carol Brummett, President
Cathy Coffey, Vice President
Mevelyn Williams, Secretary

*note: Anne Gleason, Treasurer her term ends in 2016.

- The President will choose two new members-at-large and that will be forthcoming.

Election: (Reid)

- A call for nominations from the floor for each office.
- The floor was closed.
- Harriet moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation. Seconded by Carole Brier.
- The slate was accepted unanimously by the members.

Upcoming Dates:

- A Literary Tea Series: for Dorothea Benton Frank – Pamela Ward; June 14, 3pm, Grace Lutheran Church
- Red, White and Blue on the Green – Cathy Coffey; July 4, 5 pm Gahagan Park
- Gigantic Book Sale- C. Coffey & A. Reid; September 11,12,13 American Legion Post.
- Executive Board Meeting: June 23 – 7 pm at Panera.
- General Membership Meeting: July 14, 2015 - 7 pm – Westvaco Room

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Carole Brier, Secretary

June 25, 2015

