

Friends of the Summerville Library (FOSL) Tuesday, July 12, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Friends of the Summerville Library met on Tuesday, July 12, 2016. Carol Brummett, President called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

In Attendance:

Carol Brummett, President
 Anne Gleason, Treasurer
 Cathy Coffey, Membership/Book Sale
 Mevelyn Williams, Secretary
 Nancy Nicodemus, Member-at-Large
 Ellen Hyatt, Liaison to SMR Writers Guild
 Debbie Lodge, Advocacy Committee Chair
 Rebecca Westfall, Member
 Carole Brier, Member
 Beverly Brockman, Member
 Kathy Marrah, Member
 Sandra Baden, Member
 Bob Tryon, Member
 Harriett Little, Member
 G. Warren McCarl, Library Board Member
 Jennie Redmond, Dorchester County Library Director

Agenda:

1. President and Publicity reports (Brummett)
2. Treasurer's report (Gleason)
3. Library Liaison report (Redmond)
4. Advocacy Committee (Lodge)
5. Membership Committee/Book Sale report (Coffey)
6. Summerville Writers Guild Liaison (Hyatt)
7. Unfinished business (Brummett)
8. New business (Brummett)
9. Upcoming meetings/event dates
10. Adjournment

President's Report (Brummett)

- June minutes were approved with correction.

Treasurer's Report (Gleason)

- Financial report distributed to attendees and reviewed – all routine and filed for audit.

Library Liaison Report to Friends of Summerville Library –Interim J. Redmond

Library News:

- County Council approved library budget request as presented.
- County Council has drafted a joint 43 million dollar capital bond referendum for the November ballot. It states that 30 million is for the library and 13 million is for Parks & Recreation. It has gone through the second reading.
- Summer reading participation and program attendance is up.
 June program attendance for children and teens: 1,847

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NOTE: The approved library budget included .6M for the lockback period.

Staff Report-

Branch Manager – Position has been offered: waiting for response.
Childrens/Teen Librarian – Interviewing candidates this week.

Upcoming Dates:

- July 13: Teen Zumba Fitness – 2 pm
- July 14: Color My World for Adults – 1 pm
- July 16: Lego Club - 2 pm
- July 20: Family Game Day – 2 pm
- July 22: Board of Bookworms – 2 pm
- July 26: Columbia Marionette Theater – 3 pm
- July 27: Porkchop Productions presents “Battle Up!” – 1 pm
- July 28: Introduction to Zumba Gold with Donna Ottone – 3 pm
- August – No scheduled children’s programming this month
- August 11: Color My World for Adults – 1 pm
- August 22: Computer Basics – 2 pm
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Membership and Book Sale Report – C. Coffey

Membership:

Memberships collected since the June 14th totaled \$30.00. Two new members and one renewal.

Book Sale: I have made the new flyers and sent out information to a few of the media sites that require a two month notice. Announcements are posted on the FOSL bulletin board in the library. We received a check from our consignment vendor for the month of June for 18 books sold. Fourteen of the books sold for over \$5.00, the highest being \$44.76. Gross sales were \$243.93 and our share (35%) equaled \$85.38.

Red, White, & Blue on the Green: It was a mixed success. There did not seem to be as many children participating nor were there as many sponsored games as in past years. The weather did not help. It was very hot and windy, therefore we could not set out the stickers as in the past. The children who came did enjoy making their book marks. Midway through the evening, there was a severe storm alert and everyone was advised to take shelter. The storm never materialized but the wind never stopped. Just when we thought we could reopen our booth, it started to sprinkle. Because of the wind, we could not keep our tables dry, so we closed up for the day. We did get a donation of \$5.00.

REPORT TO FRIENDS OF SUMMERVILLE LIBRARY – E. Hyatt

1. Let me add thanks to those which you may have already received from individuals of the Summerville Writers Guild (SWG) who are also Friends of the library. Your making each of our works visible to the community during AUTHOR! AUTHOR!, the evening of Thurs., June 16, was appreciated. Very nice reciprocity!

2. How would you like me to proceed with SWG members with regard to a letter-writing campaign on behalf of the library? I notice the POST AND COURIER clearly states that it will print no "letters associated with an organized effort involving candidates or causes."

It seems our focus on the library would fall under the category of "causes."

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3. Is there a focus you would like to see in the series Lives Change @ Your Library in July? Shall I write something about Advocates in prep for the upcoming work that the Friends have ahead of them? Shall I write something about the Friends or an officer to draw attention to how rewarding it is to become a Friend of the library? Thus, we might get additional active members. Any preferences?

Advocacy Committee Report – D. Lodge

Much has been happening since my last report, mostly in the subcommittee work groups. As the Referendum is looking more like it will certainly appear on the ballot in November, our attention has turned to planning our activities between now and Election Day.

On June 2nd, Rebecca Westfall, called a meeting of the letter writing group where we discussed our goals and strategy for calling attention to the need for and benefits of the new libraries. It was decided that each of us in the group would write a letter to the editor (SJS and/or P&C) by the end of July. Becky will be sent each letter for proofreading and will stagger sending them to the newspapers. Becky's letter was first and appeared in both publications on June 29th and June 30th. It was an excellent letter, enumerating the problems with the current library and the need for a new library with just the right amount of anecdotal content. We have heard many positive comments about it around the community.

Our regular Advocacy Committee Meeting was held on June 14th.

Robyn Dudley called a meeting of the Outreach subcommittee on June 21st with a follow up meeting on June 24th. The group brainstormed on what publicity materials we would like to use for the coming "Vote Yes" campaign and how best to distribute those materials to the public. A basic design and color scheme for our logo was discussed. As a follow up Debbie Lodge received a rough estimate on printing costs and contacted a media design professional who is willing to apply his skills in designing the logo without cost. As leader of the Media subcommittee, Jennifer Armenti has agreed to coordinate design of our other printed materials. Combining the rough estimate of items needed in the near future with further anticipated needs, a request for funding (\$5,000) was sent to the Friends board on June 26th. The Board had some questions and concerns about the request which Debbie Lodge responded to. It is assumed that the matter is currently tabled for further discussion.

The Speakers group met on June 28th to go over a few minor changes in the Powerpoint presentation and to discuss plans for taking our show on the road. Debbie Lodge also edited the original "Community Group" list of potential venues for speaking opportunities. She also shared an abbreviated version of a short speech that she prepared for us to use which was well received by the group. The Powerpoint gives an overview of the library's services and value to the community; the speech is aimed at persuading others to "Vote Yes" for the Library Referendum.

On July 5th Becky Westfall called on her subcommittee to meet informally over dinner before attending the Dorchester County Council Meeting at 7:00PM. The Referendum proposal passed its second reading without a hitch. There were two people in attendance in the Council Chambers who expressed concern about the Parks portion of the Referendum. The third and final reading for the Referendum proposal is scheduled for Monday, July 18th.

On July 7th Debbie Lodge, Advocacy Committee Chair, received a call from Patrick Sweeney, Political Director of EveryLibrary which is a PAC for libraries. He was able to give her a great deal of information about running a campaign for a library referendum. Mr. Sweeney has also offered to provide us with ongoing advice and mentioned the possibility of setting up a remote training session. More of this information will be shared at the next Advocacy Committee meeting on July 12th.

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Upcoming Dates:

Executive Board Meeting – C. Brummett; Tuesday July 26, 7pm – Panera Bread
Advocacy Committee Meeting – D. Lodge; Tuesday August 9, 6-7pm; DCL - Westvaco Room
FOSL General Meeting – C. Brummett; Tuesday August 9, 7pm; DCL – Westvaco Room
Gigantic Book Sale – C. Coffey; Sept. (8), 9, 10, & 11; American Legion Post

Unfinished Business:

- 2015-2016 FOSL Accomplishments (attached)

New Business:

- Advocacy group is looking into the ramifications of a lobbying arm, a 501(c)4 organization which can raise funds and generate support for the upcoming referendum. There are some serious impacts to consider for FOSL.

Announcements/ For the Good of the Order:

Ellen brought a copy of a poem about day lilies to share with us and encourage us as we work to accomplish great things for our community and future generations!

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mevelyn Williams, Secretary

August 7, 2016