

Friends of the Summerville Library (FOSL) Tuesday, August 9, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Friends of the Summerville Library met on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. Carol Brummett, President called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm.

In Attendance:

Carol Brummett, President
 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
 Anne Gleason, Member
 Rebecca Westfall, Member
 Renay Marsh, Member
 Beverly Brockman, Member
 Donna Underwood, Member
 Bob Tryon, Member
 Harriett Little, Member
 G. Warren McCarl, Library Board Member
 Jennie Redmond, Dorchester County Library Director
 Pinky Harriott, Director of Operations/Community Relations
 Jay Byars, Guest

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)

- July minutes were approved.
- Kathy Marrah sent a Thank You card for the plant she received after the death of her mother – this was read to the attendees.
- Several news articles and letters to the editor were passed around for review – regarding the need to build more library facilities and the personal impact that the library has had on individuals and families. We have a strong and positive influence which the library membership is proud of and is willing to promote.

Treasurer's Report (Gleason in lieu of Marrah)

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

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

Library News:

1. Library participated in The Ark's Grand Opening/Health Fair for Loving Hearts Respite Care in Harleyville July 28th.
2. Held our concluding SR programs the final week of July with Columbia Marionette Theater and drew for our summer reading grand prize winners.
3. James McTeer II, author of *Minnow* spoke at the STG Headquarters August 7th. Had a nice turnout for the book talk.
4. Bookmobile will be at the Prosperity Center's Back to School Bash August 13th 11am-3pm @ the Goodwill Center.

Staff Report: Nothing new to report.

Upcoming Dates:

1. August – no scheduled special children's programming this month.
2. August 11th – Color My World for Adults 1 pm.
3. August 22nd – Computer Basics 2pm
4. September is Library Card Sign Up Month
5. Closed for Labor Day September 5th

Referendum: Pinky Harriott will provide update.

NOTE: 1571 children participated in the Summer Reading program, and about 200 adults.

Membership and Book Sale Report – C. Coffey

Membership:

1. Memberships collected for July - \$30.00 in renewals. Two new members joined in August.
2. Current membership is 191.

Book Sale:

1. Next Book Sale is Sept 9-11th at the American Legion Post on Sumter Ave in Summerville.
2. Notices will go out to members this week. Volunteers are needed for all days of the sale and on Thursday, Sept 8th for set up. Email me or call if you would like to help. cathysfosl@aol.com or 843-871-6440.
3. Some of the advertising is in place. SJS and Post & Courier ads will be placed this week.
4. The American Legion Post Ladies Auxiliary will be selling a Hot Dog Plate (Hot Dog, Chips, & Drink) for \$5.00. They will also have sodas, water, coffee and other snacks for sale.
5. Bookmarks, Signs, and Flyers are designed and ready to print for distribution. We will not have a sign at the end of the Berlin G Meyers Parkway this time. Organizations are only allowed to use that spot twice a year.
6. Received a check for \$33 from the book vendor.

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REPORT TO FRIENDS OF SUMMERVILLE LIBRARY – E. Hyatt

1. At the July meeting of the SWG

A. Shared some info about the Referendum for Parks and Libraries at the July meeting of the SWG. As I mentioned at the Advocacy mtg. of Wed., July 27, I decided to do this in the form of Exhibit A, Exhibit B, etc. (but to D. or E., not Z!) Held up detailed packet for the Powerpoint presentations.

B. Answered questions, which were insightful for possible viewpoints of the Summerville voters. (e.g., Why are parks and libraries together? Will the money be clearly specified on the ballot? Where will speakers on behalf of the Referendum present? One suggestion was to speak at Toastmasters, of which there are supposedly several in the area.)

C. Group was small (under 10); however, everyone present signed the sheet to indicate they would vote "YES." One member of the SWG showed additional interest, and he was put in touch with Debbie Lodge, Chair of Advocacy.

2. Remind me to tell you of connection among the Friends, South Carolina Academy of Authors (SCAA), and the Children's Defense Fund (founder Marian Wright Edelman, Inducted into the SCAA in 2012) mentioned nationally during the Democratic National Convention. Also, State Library in Columbia alluding to Summerville Library.

Curtis R. Rogers, Ed.D.

Communications Director

1500 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Advocacy Committee Report – D. Lodge

We have had a roller coaster ride since the last report trying to ascertain how we might best support the library referendum. Our committee was advised that forming a 501c4 would be the most effective way to raise money and advocate for the referendum. Much time was devoted to investigating the legal requirements to do that. On July 12th the committee had its regular committee meeting where I went over the basics of political campaign work in preparation for the transition. Meanwhile we received the good news that the Libraries and Parks Referendum had passed its final reading on July 18th. Later that same week I learned that there would be a "Vote Yes" Campaign with a professional campaign manager and that money has already been pledged to the campaign. This relieves the Advocacy Committee from having to form a 501c4 or for the committee or FOSL from having to take the lead. Leaders of the political campaign reached out to me advising us to be patient while they were setting everything up. The campaign should be ready to really get going by the end of August. The Committee had a special meeting on July 27th to update everyone on these developments. At that time it was my understanding that since there would be a political campaign outside our organization that the safest path for us would be to just continue with our awareness campaign. Upon further research I have been able to clarify some of the legal questions that both I and the Friends Board had regarding the limits of advocacy for a 501c3. Supporting documents were sent to the Board and several key members of the Advocacy Committee last week which confirm that we can indeed be a part of the "Yes Campaign" as a group in addition to as individuals.

NOTE: the Board is to decide the % of last year's budget to donate for the "Quality of Life" referendum. Volunteers will be needed. Pinky will do a presentation on the technical issues/#'s. Debbie and Robyn will do the 'Vote Yes' side. There is to be a fundraiser/family event for the Parks and Recreation on October 22nd. Joseph Debney is the Parks Commissioner's representative at the Advocacy Committee Meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

Third Thursday - August 18, 5-8pm; Hutchinson Square

Advocacy Committee Meeting – D. Lodge; September 13, 6-7pm; DCL - Westvaco Room

Gigantic Book Sale – C. Coffey; Sept. (8), 9, 10, & 11; American Legion Post

Third Thursday - September 15, 5-8pm; Hutchinson Square

The Dorchester Library Board meeting will be held in St. George on Monday, September 19th, 7pm

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Unfinished Business:

- Horror Writers Focus for October 22nd event will have a 'Goosebumps' theme. A movie is planned, with decorations, games and snacks also on the agenda.
- The Fall Festival of the Arts, 2017 initial planning session is to begin at 10am, August 20 at Coastal Coffee Roasters.

New Business:

Jay Byars, representative for Dorchester County : District 7 gave some enlightening comments regarding the upcoming referendum for the Parks and Library growth. County Council will meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in September here in Summerville, while the October meeting will be held in St. George. Jay feels that we should begin to see some activity on this topic within the next week.

Announcements/ For the Good of the Order:

Ellen made a comment from the book I Can Make a Difference regarding "Holding Up the Sky" – the correlation being that the task ahead for library enhancement is a big job but that each of us can do his part!

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mevelyn Williams, Secretary

September 10, 2016