

Friends of the Summerville Library (FOSL) Tuesday, September 13, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Friends of the Summerville Library met on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. Carol Brummett, President called the meeting to order at 7:08 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
 Kathy Marrah, Treasurer
 Anne Gleason, Member
 Rebecca Westfall, Member
 Renay Marsh, Member
 Beverly Brockman, Member
 Sandra Baden, Member
 Autumn Reid, Member
 Pinky Harriott, Director of Operations/Community Relations
 Jennifer Smith, new Children's Librarian

Agenda:

1. President and Publicity reports (Brummett)
2. Treasurer's report (Marrah)
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 (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:

Staff Report: Pinky introduced the new children’s librarian, Jennifer Smith.

Upcoming Dates: a new after-school “Game Day” is planned for Tuesday, 9/20, called “make a space”.

Membership and Book Sale Report – C. Coffey

Membership:

We received 10 new members, 8 during the book sale and 2 at the library. We also received \$100 in donations.

Book Sale:

First and most important. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up on Thursday and Friday. You did an awesome job, especially since the books didn’t arrive at the ALP until 1:00 in the afternoon due to mechanical problems with the truck. Also, kudos to Anne Gleason and Karen Petros for the great job they do sorting the books. We would not have finished setting up by 5 PM on Thursday if the books had not been so well organized. Over the four days of the sale, there were 34 volunteers including two students. One is an exchange student from Germany attending Summerville High School and one from Ashley Ridge High School. The sale was a great success, grossing \$5,105.79. Net proceeds are not available yet. Expenses to be accounted for will include advertising, book storage, Ash & T’s and updating the road signs and banners. The Ladies Auxiliary from the ALP sold hot dogs, drinks, and all kinds of other snacks. They were very pleased with their sales. The proceeds from their sales go toward sending high school girls to Girls State. Books left over from the sale were collected on Monday by the National Kidney Foundation.

NOTE: will mention on future ads that the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary will provide food for sale, the proceeds going to the programs they support. Also, two Boy Scouts came to help with clean up after the sale, this effort will earn them credit for their badges.

REPORT TO FRIENDS OF SUMMERVILLE LIBRARY – E. Hyatt

1. At the August meeting of the SWG, a. There seemed to be a positive interest in hearing about the Referendum for Libraries and Parks. One member of the SWG has heard in various groups to which he belongs or with which he associates what seems to be the two ongoing predominate reasons against the Referendum: increases in taxes and beliefs that vote for libraries should not be with vote for parks. (Remind me: I heard an interesting detail.)
2. Encouraged letter-writing on behalf of libraries, with the focus on personal accounts, and I am pleased to report that a letter by Renay Marsh, member of both the SWG and the Friends of Summerville Library, already appears in the SUMMERVILLE JOURNAL SCENE (SJS, Wed., Sept. 7, 2016). Is the Friends organization or anyone keeping these and at least some other pertinent materials related to Advocacy? The collection will make a good record of process and a reference for posterity in the new libraries.
3. At the SWG meeting on Mon., Sept. 26, singer/songwriter/guitar musician (Joshua Jarman) will be the guest. Public is invited (Perkin’s Restaurant, 1700 Old Trolley Rd., Summerville, by 6:15 pm).
4. Another article in the Series “Lives Change @ Your Library” appeared in the SJS (Fri., Aug. 26, 2016). The topic involved how the library saves parents money. Thank you for your past and continuing attention to and collaborative help with this series. Is there a time that is best or that you prefer to see the piece run in the paper? Managing Editor Leslie Cantu said she can plan and leave space for the piece. Though the final decision is up to the editors, I am thinking of the last Wednesday or Friday of the month. Apparently, for now, free delivery is given on both days but to different areas on each.

NOTE: Carol is keeping the articles for the scrapbook from the SJS, however, the box is in Autumn’s possession and should be organized by a librarian in the future.

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Advocacy Committee Report – D. Lodge

At the Committee meeting on August 9th, I attempted to clarify the roles that a 501c3 organization could take during the political campaign and passed out materials that addressed the topic. Robyn Dudley left early with a friend because they were going to give a short pitch to the White Gables Neighborhood Association about the Referendum. A representative from the Friends of the Dorchester County Parks, Joseph Debney, attended our meeting and gave us an overview of their group's activities. Later at the Friends Meeting, Councilman Jay Byars dropped in to talk about the political campaign and our essential role in helping to pass the referendum. It was a great night filled with information and inspiration!

I sent a suggestion to purchase a portable projector and screen to the FOSL Board and also requested funds for printing. The projector and screen have been approved and purchased by the Friends' Board and we are grateful that we will be able to use this equipment when needed for promoting the library. The FOSL Board, although willing to pay for printing general information flyers, is not willing to sponsor any materials that use the words "Vote Yes for Libraries November 8th". Because of this, alternate funds will be used (individual donations) to fund any printing needed until the political campaign gives us printed materials we can use. FOSL's stance also makes it necessary that we remove the FOSL logo from any materials we use and that we do not represent ourselves as being part of FOSL when speaking in favor of the Referendum. I have asked FOSL President, Carol Brummett, to give us an approved statement that we can use to explain FOSL's position should we be asked.

On September 6th Becky Westfall and I had lunch with Mr. George Seago for which this library is named. As the first President of the Friends of the Library Mr. Seago spearheaded the referendum campaign for the expansion of the building. What I did not realize is that Mr. Seago was actual the catalyst for the establishment of public library system in Dorchester County. He first suggested the need for a public library in the late 1970s to the Chamber of Commerce. What a debt of gratitude we all owe this wonderful and still very sharp man who will be 98 years old on September 13th!

The political campaign for the Library & Parks Referendum launched a Facebook page (Vote Yes to Invest in Our Future-Parks and Libraries) as well as a webpage (VoteYesDorchester.com) at the first of the month. The webpage has a wealth of information, a FAQ page and a button for donating and signing up to volunteer to help the campaign. On September 8th Donna Underwood, Robyn Dudley and myself met with Bill Collins of the Dorchester County Library Board, as well as Kathy Randall of the Friends of Dorchester County Parks and Jay Byars of the County Council to form a committee dedicated to working on the referendum.

On September 12th Donna Underwood and I will accompany Pinky Harriot of DCL to a Republican Women's Luncheon. Pinky will present the facts and we will advocate for voting yes on the referendum. On October 15th, we will have the opportunity to speak to the Dorchester County Democratic Party at their breakfast meeting. Donna Underwood has secured permission for us to speak to the Kings Grant residents about the referendum under the auspices of their garden club on October 13th. Just today she learned that we will be able to open this meeting to other neighborhoods. Donna will publicize this through NextDoor. Both Donna and Pinky are working to line up other speaking opportunities.

NOTE: It is hoped that the new library will also be named in Mr. Seago's honor when it is open!

Debby Lodge will resign as chairman of the Advocacy Committee in order to take a more active role in promoting the referendum. Donations are gladly accepted.

Upcoming Dates:

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

Advocacy Committee Meeting – D. Lodge; October 11, 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:

- Third Thursday will be attended by Anne, Becky and Cathy
- Budget Committee hasn't met yet but plans to have a preliminary budget prepared for the 9/26 Board meeting.
- Cathy Coffey will send an email to the membership with requests for addition /or changes to the budget ASAP

New Business:

- Sandra Baden discussed the next author event featuring Harry Farthing, author of The Summit. This event is planned for October 23rd at 2pm. FOSL will provide refreshments.
- Would like to plan an afternoon when Mr. George Seago would tell stories, perhaps to be held at the Dorchester Museum.
- Renay has a signup sheet for volunteer help with decorations and refreshments for the Horror program planned for 10/22.

Announcements/ For the Good of the Order:

Carol Brummett brought in about 20 new calendars for 2017 – please feel free to take all you'd like!

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Mevelyn Williams, Secretary

October 9, 2016