Friends of the Library

Olive Free Library

Date: January 5, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Meeting start time: 4:34 pm

In Attendance:

Linda Burkhardt

Felice Castellano

Judy Chaifetz

Carla Fjeld

Tom Hammang

Karen Heusel

Jane Keller

Chrissy Lawlor

Monique Martindale

Henrietta Shannon

Mary Ann Sheppard

Meg Soltis

Old Business:

Holiday Fair:

1. Holiday Fair Totals as provided by Chrissy Lawlor:
	1. Total was $3234.72 with the break-down as follows:
		1. Raffles - $1009
		2. Cookie boxes - $1157.72
		3. Vendors - $908
		4. Book sale - $160
2. A suggestion from one of the Holiday Fair patrons was to consider selling hot beverages
	1. General discussion among the Friends members with several members stating that this might be a feasible addition to the 2023 Fair
		1. Decision tabled until 2023 planning meetings
3. Discussion about the placement of the Ukulele Group in front of the cookie box counter at one point during the Fair
	1. Uke Group wanted to make sure downstairs vendors & patrons were part of the holiday fun – no members saw this a major problem considering the motivation of the Uke Group and general consensus was the Uke Group added a great deal of Holiday cheer to the event
4. Discussion about redesigning the Holiday Fair lawn signs for next Fair to enhance readability since many members cited difficulties reading the dates of the Fair when in a moving vehicle
	1. action tabled until 2023 planning meetings
5. Patron suggested displaying the raffle bags and featured raffle earlier so more patrons could peruse the choices before the actual Fair
	1. Chrissy will need to discuss with the staff to see feasibility setting up the raffle bags for display and possibly of selling raffle tickets at the check-out desk
6. Henrietta suggested that she would be open to Holiday decoration donations if anyone has some that are in good shape, so she would be able to better decorate the library for the Holiday season (members expressed their gratitude that Henrietta took up this task)

Phoenicia Soap Workshop Fund Raiser:

1. Felice reported that this fund-raising idea would not be feasible at this time because it would be too expensive to yield meaningful funds for fund raising
	1. This fund-raising idea has been discarded

New Business:

Fund Raising Events for the 2023 Budget \*

1. March 11or 25? - Silent Fine Art Auction which will be coordinated with the Music Series (possibly George Tsontakis…Chrissy will follow up on this) – Judy will act as chairperson with Mary Ann and Felice assisting
2. June 3 – Library Fair/Local Fest
	1. Plant sale chairpersons – Mary Ann & Felice
	2. Book sale chairpersons – Tom, Jane & Monique
3. June 17 – Garden Tour – Donna Elberg will act as chairperson with Mary Ann assisting
4. September 9 – Olive Day – Henrietta will act as chairperson with Tom and Jane assisting
5. October 7 – Community Yard Sale at Davis Park – Linda Burkhart will act as chairperson
6. December 9 & 10 – Holiday Fair – Mary Ann and Felice will act as cookie chairpersons and Henrietta will act as raffle and decorating chairperson

\*Discussions followed each event chairperson coordination with ideas and suggestions on event development and how volunteers can be best assigned – all events will be further discussed, organized, and developed at upcoming meetings

Acceptance of the 2023 Friends Budget

1. Tom pointed out that the Library Fair/Local Fest book sale budget line should be lowered since the 2023 event will not be as focused on book sales
	1. Tom and Henrietta both pointed out that the amount of time to curate the 2022 book sale was disproportionate to the funds raised by the activity so both strongly suggested that the Library Fair book sale be sharply curtailed for 2023
	2. All members seemed to see the logic of this and agreed to draw down the projected income for 2023
	3. Jane presented the idea that maybe the books could be priced a bit higher in light of the cost of new and used books in general, but ensuing discussion was of the consensus that all area library book sales on average charge the same prices so OLF book sales are keeping with this trend
2. Henrietta presented that idea that the library may want to investigate more types of “branding” merchandise available throughout the year to enhance the fund-raising budget
	1. Items like book totes, but also items like mugs, water bottles, etc. with the OLF Dove and Branch logo
	2. Meg suggested looking into fund-raising merchandise companies, like what schools use, to get an idea of the types of merchandise and line item costs to see feasibility.
3. Meg made a motion to approve the 2023 Friends Group budget and Tom seconded; all members approved the budget with no dissenting votes
	1. Projected total income should be approximately $6,000

The 2023 Friends Meeting Schedule is available from Chrissy & members are encouraged to attend meetings when possible (meetings are announced on the Friends section of the OFL website for everyone’s convenience, too)

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm

Minutes submitted by Meg Soltis on Saturday, January 7, 2023