

1.18.24 Friends Meeting:

Attendees: Melissa Varga (Secretary), Carl Bergman (Treasurer), Mark Pattison (president); Deborah Hirsch (Branch Manager)

Agenda:

1. Meeting called to order 6:36pm.
2. Minutes of November meeting: moved to approve, no discussion.
3. Treasurer's report: (see Carl's attachment for full details)
 - a. We've had more people sign up in January than in past years
 - b. Sponsors make up a strong plurality of our income
 - c. Error: Carl will fix the date in the pie chart
 - d. Proposed FY2024 budget was based on last year's budget.
 - e. Website: Carl is going to try to change our website so a family can sign up on the membership form, will work on it before the next meeting. Website seems slow on the backend, Carl is exploring some solutions. It should be fine on the public-facing end.
 - f. Report approved
 - g. Budget moved, approved with no discussion
4. Membership:
 - a. Mark has been working with Imara, teen who has been volunteering weekly to recruit and help with book donations in the used book room.
 - b. Picked up books from the Southeast Library for book sale.
 - c. Were able to donate multiple sets of encyclopedias (great for freeing up space in the used book room!)
 - d. Mark is there most Saturdays with Imara. Melissa will be there on the 27th.
 - e. Request: in order to not have pest issues, please keep treats in a plastic, covered containers.
 - f. Mark spoke with Robert Bettman, he is interested in offering writing camp this summer after school is out. (Request: Robert should send us an email with the details and proposal)
5. Manager's report:
 - a. Initiatives: Winter Challenge is underway, 28 kids are registered. (We're in the top 4 of libraries in terms of number of kids registered.) COVID test kits are available for free.
 - b. Programs: National Theatre brought in their kids pirate program, 60 people attended. Continuing with usual programs: story time, tech assistance, Black Voices Book Club, drop-in chess and lego. New programs: Justice Access is coming back this month (mobile law library). DC Dept of Employment Services on February 7 is coming to connect job seekers with resources. Valentines program, Black History Month scavenger hunt for kids.
 - c. Staffing: New children's librarian! Started at the beginning of the month, coming from the Shaw branch. 2 more new staff: new library associate

(coming from other DC agencies); Adult Librarian transferring in from Francis Gregory, just started this week. Total now: 3 associate, 2 librarians, 2 circulation workers, half-time associate (splits his time between Shepherd Park and Takoma Park).

- d. Also—new Xerox machine. Lots of excitement going on at the branch!
6. No old business
 7. New business:
 - a. Still need to schedule book sale date. Looking at April 13-14 or 27-28
 - b. Request from St. Elizabeth's for Spanish language materials—after our book sale, if we could pass along leftover Spanish books, that would be welcome.
 8. Next meeting is March 21st at 6:30 pm.
 9. Adjourned 7:03 pm.