

Friends of the Russell Library Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
December 7, 2023
Russell Library Annex Building

Present: Sandy Becker, Barrie Robbins-Pianka, Makiko Shinjo, Laura Taft
Recorder: Laura Taft

Call to Order at 10:11 am

Approval of agenda with addition of discussion of December book sale

Approval of November 2023 minutes

President's Report

- Sandy's article on the Friends for the Middletown Magazine appeared in a recent issue and she brought in a copy on Tuesday so sorters could see. (Later in this meeting, Barrie suggested running the article again in other outlets. Sandy will investigate.) Sandy reiterated that the aim of the article was to attract new members and volunteers.
- Pete H. continues to help with emptying book barrels in Robb's absence; he's managing well.
- It's now noted on the Friends web page that we're no longer accepting donations of CDs. Makiko volunteered to bring leftover CDs in our inventory to Goodwill.
- Sandy suggested moving red dot books off of the black wire cart and onto our new book cart. Sandy will ask Ramona if the library is interested in using/having the wire cart.

Treasurer's Report

- Report includes November and the first week of December, including book sale income. November was a slower month for Book Nook; we offset it a bit with increased online sales to buyback vendors. We wondered if the lower October/November Book Nook sales could be chalked up to seasonal usage trends of the library. Sandy will ask Ramona if she knows if winter months are slower overall.
- December sale netted \$1,965. Membership renewals are coming in with generous additional donations.
- Barrie asked to see the invoice for the new cart, particularly to see discount we received. (Laura emailed the invoice to the executive board members later on 12/7/23.)

Discussion

- In Cathy's absence, we tabled most of the discussion about the December book sale, but did briefly discuss better indoor signage during the sale. Also, Sandy volunteered to be the upstairs organizer at future sales to direct where carts should go.
- Barrie asked about the library's Book Club kits and what happens to them when they go out of circulation. Sandy will ask Ramona.

Move to Adjourn at 10:47 am; approved.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 4, 2024, 10:00 AM, Russell Library Annex Building

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Taft