



MINUTES

January 16, 2025

IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Bernstein, President
Debbie Rieth, Recording Secretary
Faith Schoon, Corresponding Secretary
Regina Ritrovato, Social Chair
Sarah Skinner, Library Director
Denise Malevitis, Library Staff

ABSENT: Carol Nash, Vice President
Carl Ceithaml, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. Motion to approve minutes of last meeting made by Regina Ritrovato, seconded by Faith Schoon. Minutes were approved.

2. An election of Vice President and Treasurer was held, with a motion by Debbie Rieth, seconded by Regina Ritrovato, and unanimously carried to re-elect Carol Nash as Vice President and Carl Ceithaml as Treasurer.

3. Officers' Reports

a. President's Report: An end-of-the-year letter was written by Julie and sent to all members. There are currently 82 members on record.

b. Vice President: Carol was absent, but Julie reported that the Book Shoppe appears to be in good shape and not as crowded.

c. Treasurer: Carl was absent but his Fourth Quarter 2024 financial reports were presented. In addition, a Ten Year Financial Comparison was reviewed. There was a discussion about the possibility of an Art Sale in the future; the Friends held one in 2017.

4. Library Director's Report:

Sarah said the Holiday Party was a great success with approximately 40 people in attendance. The movie "Elf" was shown. Overall, the holiday activities throughout the year saw an increase in attendance. The Make & Take craft sessions were also very popular.

The staff is still working on developing new, consistent signage for the library. Katherine will be attending the April meeting to share ideas for a new Friends logo.

There is a Celtic music program being planned for May.



There was a discussion about the future possibility of the Friends members being able to pay their annual dues through a link on the Friends page of the library website.

5. New Business:

Julie presented a proposal by Mandi Yeske to partner with Rising Kites Coffee Shop in Bridgman. Rising Kites is a non-profit organization that employs people with disabilities. They provide support to families who have children with disabilities, and have an inviting play area with bookshelves and comfortable seating for individuals to meet and/or enjoy a beverage together. Upon motion by Faith, supported by Regina, and unanimously carried, a donation of \$300 was approved for the purchase of books for Rising Kites. Sarah noted that there are many childrens' books available now that could be relevant to the message of Rising Kites. Mandi's proposal also suggested that a sticker could be placed in the books to indicate that they were a gift from the Friends, and could encourage the readers to visit the library or its website.

Julie announced that the winter Friends Book Sale will be held Friday, February 14 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Bag Sale, \$5). An email will be going out to request members to set up on Friday from 10:00 - noon, work during the sale, and help with clean-up.

The volunteer appreciation and staff appreciation luncheons are coming up in April. Carol and Regina will be helping Julie with these. There will also be a Volunteer of the Year honored at the volunteer luncheon.

Julie provided a copy of the Friends Bylaws, which will be reviewed in April when all the officers are present.

Next meeting is April 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.