

Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Juneau Public Libraries
Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023
2 p.m. at Juneau Public Meeting

1. **Attending:** Board members President Sandy Harris, Tom Wagner, Treasurer Eva Varadi, Anne Fuller, Vice President Lauren Framke, Secretary Betsy Longenbaugh, Karlene Kuhn; Staff members Catherine Melville and Melinda Sandkam. Also attending were Friends members Julie NiederHauser, Sherry Taber, Esther Millea, Donna Pierce, Terry Kramer and Allen Davis.

2. **Consent Agenda:** Tom moved to approve; Lauren seconded. Approved without objection.
Minutes of 8/10/2023: Move to approve minutes: Betsy Longenbaugh; Tom Wagner seconded. Approved without objection.

3. Reports:

A. **Library Reports:** Catherine Melville, Library Director

- 1) She had filled her former position as Technical Services Manager, the position she held before becoming Director.
- 2) A flood at the Douglas Library, caused by a flooded sink caused by a janitor, has resulted in carpet damage and possible sheet rock damage. The damage was discovered Tuesday morning (five days ago), and the library is still closed. Damage should be covered by the janitor's insurance.
- 3) The Alaska Attorney General put out a press release yesterday saying he has issued letters to librarians that "enticing children is a crime in the State of Alaska." Catherine Melville has not yet received the letter he announced yesterday. Basic gist is that it is a statute that makes it a crime to entice children into sexual activity. People have been looking at such statutes and asking if it can be used to charge librarians who allow children under age 16 to check out a book that may describe sexual activity. Catherine said she and some other librarians in the State will have an emergency meeting to discuss this on Monday, after talking to city and municipal attorneys.
- 3) There were 920 entries for the bookmark contest; preschool through high school senior with a number of awards to be presented.

Melinda Sandkam, Library Outreach Coordinator

- 1) Gave a list of bullet points of services provided to youth and adult in the past three months. These included for youth: monthly scavenger hunts at Douglas, Back-to-School events at all three locations and an I Spy display in Douglas. For adults, activities included an author talk, gaming events, a

wills and estate workshop, a writing workshop and drop-in chess that included a chess tournament. Upcoming events include a winter reading challenge, a library event at Gruening Park, and partnering with Zach Gordon Youth Center to connect youth with the library.

- B. **Friends Highlights** from Sandy Harris: A very busy year as her first president of the Board. Moved \$350,000 from Alexandria account to the Juneau Community Foundation (about half the funds owned by the Friends). The Foundation will help us with fundraising, and we can submit a grant to use the funds (the funds themselves belong to the Foundation). Also completed Pick-Click-Give for next year to allow PFD applicants to give a portion of their dividend to the FOJPL. She and other board members reviewed the process of archiving documents for the Friends, and decided to continue hard copy archiving, not digitizing them. She located all the minutes except for 2014 and 2015; found most of the tax returns. Some older ones may not have been kept for more than 7 years. Sandy also noted that the t-shirts and bags that the Friends started selling this past year did well. The Board discussed making pins of the popular logo (Tom Wagner said there is a jar of such pins at the bookstore). Melinda suggested bringing pins to the fair in December. Sandy is also interested in exploring a recurring membership in Wild Apricot (on-line site for membership). Karlene volunteered to help with pricing swag, despite leaving the board. Sandy Harris also said she has been working with the bookstore's owners to get light ballasts replaced, and there is an ongoing discussion regarding locking up the mall after hours (Tom Wagner said he believes there are people living in the mall).
- C. **Bookstore Committee** from Tom Wagner: The bookstore is doing well; carpet was cleaned recently. He suspects winter sales will be slower than summer sales. Betsy Longenbaugh also discussed bringing paperbacks to the downtown library (and sometimes Douglas) for sale. In addition, the Imagination Library books are given to shelves of free books at the airport. (Also, a brief discussion about Imagination Library books having children's names and addresses printed on them; the policy is to black them out before they leave the store.)

IT Report from Anne Fuller; she is keeping up the Facebook page, plans to continue working on the website (Karlene Kuhn had headed this up recently). She would like to train someone on the use of Wild Apricot. Facebook stats are: Total reach: 3,173 people, increase of over 400% Posts - 92 Facebook posts over the course of the year

Page likes: 1,154, including 88 new likes!
Page follows: 1,170 followers

D. **Treasurer's Report** from Eva Varadi: Total assets are now \$800,039; revenue will be up from last year (already made as much so far this year as we did all of last calendar year). Only \$20,000 of the \$30,000 funds given to the Libraries by the Friends has been used so far; Catherine said a budget expenditure for new furniture was not needed because another source of furniture was found. Betsy Longenbaugh asked for the Board to work with Library staff to imagine new goals and desires to meet Library needs in the future, suggesting that the Board raise its annual financial support for the libraries. Anne Fuller would like future discussion to include budget and timelines; Karlene suggested other ways (seeking grants) to find funds for any major project. Catherine Melville said a bookmobile is a popular idea, but the operating costs can be significant. The full report is attached.

4. **Approve funding for carpet cleaning:** Betsy Longenbaugh moved to affirm the expense of up to \$700; Lauren Framke seconded. Approved without discussion.
5. **Karlene Kuhn leaving the board:** Karlene was thanked for all her work on the Board, especially her work on the website, Facebook and ordering swag (t-shirts and tote bags). She was given gifts and a card.
6. **Discussion**
 - a. Endowment Board – Catherine Melville reported on this; there is a three-member board (FOJPL member, Library Director and one other person). Donna Pierce is currently on the board, and has proposed being replaced by Sherry Tabor. Endowment Board meets annually; Catherine said the next meeting should be soon, probably in January or February.
 - b. Board terms; Sandy Harris, 10/22; Anne Fuller, 11/21; Karlene Kuhn 8/21; Tom Wagner and Betsy Longenbaugh, 5/22; Eva Varadi, 8/22; Lauryn Framke 1/23. Anne Fuller noted that her board term is up; Sandy Harris asked if she would continue serving and then appointed her for another two years. Anne Fuller is now on the board until 11/25.
 - c. Goals for upcoming year: Sandy Harris said the goals include the funding goals as discussed earlier in the meeting, recruiting new board members and finding a website manager. Julie Niederhauser said that Amy Carney has volunteered to update the website. Sandy Harris will also begin working on looking at the bookstore lease. Catherine Melville asked that a goal include increasing members.

- d. Meeting dates and locations for upcoming year. Budget meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18th, downtown library at 5 p.m.; regular meeting will be Feb. 8 at 5 p.m., Mendenhall Library; May 9 meeting will be at the Douglas Library; August 8 will be in Mendenhall Valley Library; and the annual meeting Nov. 9 will be downtown.
- e. Betsy Longenbaugh moved to adjourn at 4 p.m.; seconded by Lauren Framke. Approved without objection.

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Betsy Longenbaugh