

Friends of David and Joyce Milne Public Library 25th Annual Meeting:
December 10, 2014

Call to order/Welcome: 7:09 pm; Stephen Dravis, President, welcomed those attending and reported that it has been a good year for the Friends and the Milne library. The Friends were able to successfully raise funds in support of library activities that will be heard in reports to follow. We will face some challenges in the near future that you'll be hearing about later on as well.

Financial Report: Michael Sussman, Treasurer (Summary Report, paper copies available). The total 2014 contribution from the Friends supporting the library and the community was \$49,803. The total assets as of Nov. 30, 2014 stand at \$71,145 as compared to the Nov. 30, 2013 total assets of \$86,051. Michael explained that our assets have decreased approx \$15,000 which reflects a near doubling of the amount of contributions given toward the library (typically we contribute somewhere between \$22,000 - \$32,000/year). This year, due to a higher request from the library, our contributions will be nearly \$50,000. Our total income for 2014 was \$47,980 and expenses for the year totaled \$13,084. Our membership cycle runs from December to November for purposes of consistency in the books, while the tax year is actually a chronologic year.

Report approved.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of Annual Meeting on December 11, 2013, taken by Susan Abrams. Susan reported highlights of the minutes as paper copies were unavailable; the move to the Southworth Street house and associated costs were discussed; we honored Bud Riley and designated the Bud Riley Memorial Fund (devoted to upgrades to the Children's Room) created through memorial donations; there were 309 members as of the end of last year; the audit report was in order; nominations for a new slate of board members and officers were given and approved.

Minutes approved.

Audit Report: Betsy Parrington reported that the audit committee met on Dec. 1, 2014 and reviewed the books, bank accounts, and CD accounts from Dec. 1 – Oct. 31, 2014 and found everything to be in order.

Report approved.

Membership Report: Robin Clutz reported that our 2014 membership is composed of 272 households, down from the previous year of 309. Income from

memberships totaled \$15,055. Michael added that 123 new checks were deposited on 12/10 from new memberships; the 2015 campaign is off to a good start.

Report approved.

Book Sales '14 & '15: Coordinators Susan Pike, Ginny Sheldon (adding that Jen Bayliss is joining as tri-chair this year). Ginny Sheldon reported Book Sale figures from 2014. The gross income (from Books/Auction/Café/Bake Sale/Raffle) was \$31,476; expenses totaled \$4,735; the net income came in at \$26,741. In addition, the year-round Book Nook brought in \$1523.50, up from 2012-'13 by \$79.

1. Book Sale '14

- First year in Southworth House worked well
- All parts of the sale financially successful: Books, Café, Raffle & especially Silent Auction which had a banner year. (See figures above.)
- Smooth two sale days, with great volunteer & community participation
- Extended hours both days worked well & will be repeated
- Instituted Book Share Program which invites community groups at the end of the sale to choose books for their organizations
- Our usual remainder company went out of business & (due to a miscalculation) we had a challenging clean up period with many people pitching in (literally & figuratively) to clear the gym. Every year is a learning experience & a solution for the future is in place. Great thanks to the Bayliss family who bailed us out!

2. Book Sale '15 (April 24 & 25)...27th annual

- Spent this fall getting organized: (addition of Jen Bayliss – wonderful new addition; bringing in a lot of new young families and volunteers).
 - Developed an overall mission statement for the sale
 - Donations & sorting going smoothly; several new sorters have come on board; have a new “vintage table.”
 - Themes this year include: selectivity; less is more; keep it simple; etc.
 - Most committee chairs are in place but seeking co-chairs in certain areas
- Silent Auction: new this year, a numbered bidding system so people can place bids more efficiently and anonymously; sales currently at \$6403 (35% compared to two years ago)
- Cafe & Bake Sale: coordinators have met twice already to get organized
- Priorities: continue to recruit new people to get involved:
 - Year-round organizing process; people to learn the ropes & assist with: sale promotion & publicity; cafe planning & organization; & the raffle. Don't have to be available for the sale dates to help with pre-sale planning; committee model helps tremendously as a system to share the jobs.

- Sale week set up, selling & clean up volunteers: extra credit for strong backs, viable knees & shoulders, stamina

3. Book Sale '16 – Stephen Dravis

- After 2 years of using the Williams-owned house on Southworth Street for receiving, sorting & storing book donations, our lease ends on June 15, 2015 (Williams is reclaiming for faculty housing).
- The Friends, Trustees and Pat McLeod are collaborating on the quest to find suitable space for our book sale staging operations. Our eventual goal is a permanent location, but we realize we may need to find another temporary home first. We are open to suggestions if anyone might have one.
- Various in-town locations have been brainstormed & contacted but nothing has materialized.
- In the pursuit of a permanent location, we are investigating the feasibility of using the library basement for pre-sale book donation, sorting & storing. To-date we have met with town Inspection Services Department to discuss the process, which has led us to the next step: meeting with an architect to develop a Scope of Work. That initial meeting is scheduled for tomorrow December 11th and we're hoping for some encouraging information. Were that to pan out, it is unlikely that any work that might be done to make the basement feasible would be finished in time for the Book Fair 2016.

Trustees: On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Rebecca Ohm, President, expressed appreciation for everything that the Friends do for the Milne Public Library, not just for the extraordinary work and funding (for collections, equipment, staff development, programming, and especially the fabulous new circulation desk for the Children's Room which has made that whole room much more useable and friendly this year), but for the spirit and enthusiasm that is generated in the whole community. We are so grateful for that. Rebecca noted, once again, the Bud Riley memorial funds and the plaque that was added to the new circulation desk in his memory.

Library Director: Pat McLeod added her appreciation; the desk and furniture was such a nice addition to the children's room, and the staff feel like professional librarians now. Thank you for the beautiful furniture and the plaque in memory of Bud. It has been strange without the Friends here doing all of the book sorting – we miss the people, but not the clutter! The advertising for all book donations shifting to Southworth St. was absolutely seamless; kudos for that organization and effort. The move to Southworth was tough, and we hope we can find a place that will be effective for everyone to work in next year for sorting and storage. The sale is

something that really must go on; it would be a terrible thing for the town to lose. Everyone in town expects the event, and everyone is there working, eating, shopping, etc... The library can't thank the Friends enough. The donation of money given to the library from the Friends this year was "off the charts" and very much appreciated. Thank goodness for the Bayliss family this year! Happy holidays to everyone.

New Business:

- Nominations – Betsy Jenkins, on behalf of the nomination committee read the slate of new and renewing board members and officers. New members for 3-year terms through 2017: Cornelia Alden, Julie Bath, Jarrett Bayliss, Mary Morrow. Renewing member for a 3-year term: Jessica Dils. **Slate accepted.**
2015 Officer Nominees: President – Stephen Dravis; Vice President – Patrice Smith; Secretary – Jessica Dils; Treasurer – Michael Sussman. **Slate of officers accepted.**

- Stephen Dravis reported one other piece of **new business** regarding transitioning members of the board and money given in appreciation for their years of service to the Friends. Instead of accumulating money, we honor and recognize those members who have transitioned off the board and the current members transitioning off of the board, which adds up to 81 combined years of service. Stephen spoke to Pat about a way to use this money and she suggested the purchase of books and nameplates in these folks' honor. **Stephen asked for a motion that we honor these folks at \$12/book for each year of service, totaling 81 books with nameplates,** noting that all of these people served the Friends and our mission. Peter Mehlin suggested that each one of these members receive a letter letting them know of the books being given in their honor.

- Michael Sussman suggested that we make a policy that puts this into effect going forward for all serving board members. Michael moved to amend Stephen's motion with a policy concerning transitioning board members to be honored with a book toward the collection equivalent to each year they serve. This was discussed; the Friends' money spent to honor people needs to be spent on library needs (this policy is already in place). Susan Abrams added that it might not be necessary to create a policy; other library needs may come up for our funding. The Board can revisit this idea at a later date. Michael's amendment to the original motion to commit future money was defeated.

The original motion – honoring past and current transitioning board members – was **approved**.

Stephen added a personal thank you from current Board members to current transitioning members; Ginny Sheldon, Robin Clutz, Maria Siskind, Maribeth Pomerantz.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm, followed by good cheer and refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Dils, 2014 Co-Secretary