

FRIENDS OF THE DUBUQUE COUNTY LIBRARY

ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES*

March 18, 2021

Present: Jane Bechen, Caroline Lundberg, Linda Vavricek, Mike Wright

President Jane Bechen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve, Caroline; second, Linda. Approved

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance, \$4,239.68; petty cash, \$30.38. Bills for fundraiser advertising from the TH and 365ink have not arrived. Motion to approve, Linda; second, Caroline. Approved

Director's Report:

The reciprocal holds with Carnegie-Stout have resumed.

The puzzles and games have been popular, and staff have received positive feedback. More will be purchased.

There has also been positive feedback regarding the Tale Trail at Swiss Valley, and another has been proposed for Heritage Trail. If \$6,000 is available for funding at the end of the fiscal year, this project will proceed. A decision will be made in May.

Mike met with representatives for Dubuque Community Schools and Carnegie-Stout to discuss the use of student IDs as library cards. This would allow many more students to access library resources. There are still details to work out.

The Comelec internet outage a week ago affected the library system.

The summer reading program will be mostly remote, but some outdoor programs are being planned. It will begin the first week of June. Jane suggested using a Thrivent grant to assist in funding.

The strategic planning is proceeding well. The feedback from community members in the focus groups has been very helpful for the consultants as they work with Mike and Amanda to develop plans for the future. A draft of the plan will be available at the April meeting.

The new library system will be up and running soon. The library will be closed the afternoons of April 12-13 for staff training. It will go live May 17. Mike will provide a quick demonstration at our April meeting. He feels that the displays will be greatly improved.

The library will be moving out of Drexler in Farley the first week of August, but no other site has been found as yet.

Old Business:

Jane and Ann sent thank you notes to those that contributed over \$25 to the Puzzles and Games Collection. With the \$1500 Friends donation and \$250 grant, 25 puzzles and 35 games were initially purchased as well as the bands to hold them together for checkout. The number has gone up as new purchases continue to be made.

The Balltown Safari Club sent a donation of \$150. The club had received money from Peter Breitbach's memorial fund to donate to local charities. Ann sent a thank you note to the return address, but it was returned to the library. Jane sent another note in the hopes that the first was returned in error.

New Business:

One hundred thank you notes have been ordered. Ann will drop off the bill at the library and Caroline will pick it up there.

\$1,503.43 for the [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) website access is due in March. It is now accessible from home and not only at the library. Caroline moved that the Friends group pay for it; Linda second. Motion carried.

There was discussion about having an outdoor plant sale in May. Jane will not have as many plants to contribute this year, and our usual first Saturday in May date is quite early for many plants to emerge. It was agreed that we'll postpone the possible date to May 15. There was also some discussion about whether we should consider advertising with posters and on social media instead of in the Advertiser and TH, especially if we won't have as many plants. We'll make a decision about whether to have the plant sale at the April meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held April 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Asbury park shelter. In the case of inclement weather, it will be a Zoom meeting.

*Minutes are in draft form pending approval at the April meeting.