

Friends of the Muskingum County Library
January 14, 2026

Present: John Furek, President; Bev Bell, Vice President; Karla Frye, Secretary; Laura Natalie, Treasurer; Sally Banfield, Past President; Sue Danhauer, At Large, Membership & Events; Joanne Brown, Nominating; Janet James, South Rep; Terri Taylor, Duncan Falls Rep; Sean Fennell, MCLS Rep

Absent: Joyce Patton, New Concord Rep

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the President at **4:20 PM**.

Meeting Minutes Approval

- Amendment to minutes discussed regarding future meeting time change from 4:00 to 4:30- Clarification that the time change wasn't officially decided in previous meeting and needs a motion today- Motion made to accept minutes as read made by Janet James, second by Sally Banfield- Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report - Laura Natalie

- Beginning balance: \$10,877.54-- Current balance: \$11,043.27- Annual financial summary (Jan-Dec) presented: - Total deposits: \$3,867.86 - Total expenditures: \$13,439 - Books and Brews fundraiser made approximately \$600 profit (\$1,000 income, \$400 expenses) - Texas Roadhouse fundraiser made \$180- Treasurer's report filed for audit

Tax Status and Credit Card Discussion

- Confusion continues about organization's tax status (501c3 vs 501c4)- Original paperwork indicated 501c3 status, but currently operating as 501c4- No documentation found for when/why the status changed- Attempts to contact IRS unsuccessful ("call back tomorrow" message)- Ohio Department of Taxation has no record of nonprofit under the given name- Community Foundation confirmed the organization is a 501c4- 501c4 status affects ability to use Venmo and receive certain donations- Decision on credit card processing for bookstore tabled until tax status is clarified- Suggestion to possibly reapply as a 501c3 while maintaining the 501c4 for political activities

Political Action Committee (PAC) Discussion

- Current PAC has approximately \$13,000 in funds- Discussion about possibly dissolving the PAC- Concerns about upcoming state budget issues that might require levy campaign- Previous levy campaigns cost between \$0-\$14,000- Decision to maintain the PAC for now due to potential future library funding needs- PAC status may be contributing to the 501c4 classification

Library Report - Sean Fennell

- December volunteer hours: 115.5- Total 2023 volunteer hours: 1,222.2
- Currently trying not to accept donations- Clarification needed for volunteers about handling unexpected donations- Request to notify staff when donations are received
- Floor plan sketches presented showing maximized shelving- ADA accessibility requirements incorporated into design- Discussion about need for a table where customers can review books- Suggestion for a mobile/folding table to maximize space- Workspace area approximately 9' x 9'- Checkout desk/cart location discussed- Group scheduled to tour the space on Friday at 1:00 PM

Branch Reports

New Concord: - Friends meet first Wednesday of each month from 10-11 AM - Book sale scheduled for April 2-4 during library hours - Pancakes and Paperbacks event at Norwich Lodge on April 4, 7-11 AM - Purchased items for new children's story area - Restocked library at Evergreen Village nursing home - 2023 financials have been audited-

Roseville: - Christmas open house held December 18 with 151 guests - T-shirts with logo received - Birds of Prey event scheduled for February 10 at community center.

South Branch: - Helped supply items for charcuterie board program - New president: Cindy Rucker - Meeting scheduled for tomorrow - Group meets every other month.

Dresden: - Currently has president (Katrina) and treasurer - Treasurer likely stepping down - Need for more active members - Suggestion to change meeting time from Friday mornings - Held "Unwrap the Gift" mystery book sale during holidays.

Duncan Falls: - December open house had 15 children and 5 or 6 adult attendees. No January meeting, will meet next in February.

Committees::

Outreach

- December revenue: \$29.85- Some locations consistently generate revenue- One location has only generated approximately \$12 total- Concern about books disappearing from some locations

Membership

- Total membership at end of December: 216- Two individual renewals (one at Maine, one at Roseville)

Programs and Events

- Books and Bourbon event on January 23 at A Taste of Ohio (6-8 PM) - Friends will have membership table and books for donation - Stickers and miniature books as giveaways - Mystery wrapped books for donation-

Books and Brews event at Weasel Boy on March 26 (5:30-7:30 PM) - Motion approved to charge \$25 for individuals and \$40 for pairs - Includes drink ticket (\$4 value) - Two trivia sessions planned (one book-themed, one general) - Brian Smith will provide music between trivia games - Board members asked to secure at least two donations each for prizes - Rich will create a cutting board for a prize - Event will be promoted in newsletter and on social media

- Texas Roadhouse fundraiser planned for July (likely July 1) - Coordination with Beata confirmed - Request for signage to direct customers

Social Media

- Facebook page has 335 followers- Plans to take photos of board members and officers- Will post meeting dates for all branch locations- Sharing library posts related to Friends activities

Meeting Time Change

- Motion made by Sally Banfield and seconded by Bev Bell, and approved to change meeting time from 4:00 to 4:30 PM

Next meeting: February 11, 2026 at 4:30
Duncan Falls Branch