

## **Friends of the Muskingum County Library**

### **February 11, 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; Janet James, South Rep; Terri Taylor, Duncan Falls Rep; Sean Fennell, MCLS Rep

**Absent:** Joyce Patton, New Concord Rep; Joanne Brown, Nominating; Lindsay Rayner, At Large

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the President at **4:30 PM**.

#### **Minutes**

- Motion made by Bev Bell to approve the minutes as read - Motion seconded by Janet James and approved

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Laura Natalie reported a January balance: \$11,043.27
- Donation boxes: \$29.85 - Book donations: \$310.00
- Interest: \$0.86
- End of January balance: \$11,383.98
- Bourbon and Books event was successful despite cold weather. Donations were higher than usual as people were informed funds go to summer reading
- Form 990 will be coming in March -
- Interest income of \$13.93 for the year (1099 form) does not need to be filed as the organization is tax exempt

#### **Library Update**

- Sean Fennell reported January volunteer hours: 73.5 hours
- Library Reopening Updates:
- John McIntire Library grand reopening scheduled for May 1st from 4-7pm - Regular hours will resume the following day
  - Bookstore expected to be ready for setup by early March
  - \$300 previously approved via email vote for bookstore shelving and rearrangement, with Sally Banfield making the motion and John Furek seconding
- Bookmobile Announcement:
- Library received a grant for a bookmobile which will arrive in March
  - Will be operational in April with a welcome tour
  - Set schedule will be established by fall. This will replace the mall outreach location

## **Branch Reports**

- New Concord: Progress continuing on children's area, expected completion by March 7 for storytelling event; book sale April 2-4 during library hours
- Roseville: Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday; planning for farmers market; Juanita continuing with friends group
- Duncan Falls: Meeting scheduled for next Thursday
- South: The friends group met in January, nothing to report.
- Dresden: No report

## **Committee Updates**

### **Outreach Shelves**

- Total collected since April: \$557.83 - Mall: \$106.41 - Downtown Exchange: \$194.62 - Taste of Ohio: \$40.36 - Weasel Boy: \$256.63 - Noted that this amount is approximately half of what would be made in one month with the bookstore open

### **Bookstore Committee**

- Committee recommends continuing with flat rate pricing rather than donations - Will accept cash and checks as before - Guidelines from bookstore files were located and will be reviewed - Tax exempt status confirmed as active and in good standing until 2028 - Uncertainty remains about whether organization is a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) - Attempts to get clarification from IRS have been unsuccessful

### **Membership**

- 112 total members at the end of January - 30 non-lifetime members (renewals expected by March 1) - 82 lifetime members (reduced from 95 due to deaths and relocations) - Discussion about potentially asking lifetime members for additional donations to support bookstore reopening.
- Motion approved to spend \$78 on stamps for membership mailings. Motion made by Sally Banfield and seconded by Bev Bell.

### **Program/Funding**

- Books and Bourbon Event:
  - Event raised \$311 - One membership renewal collected - T-shirt sale raised \$100
  - Event was successful despite cold weather
- Books and Brews Event Planning:
  - Scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 5:30-7:30pm - Setup to begin at 4:00pm - Trivia questions being prepared
  - Drink ticket for \$4 off a cocktail or \$4 for a beer
  - Raffle items being collected
  - Centerpieces created from folded book pages
  - Volunteer assignments made for registration, book table, and raffle tickets
- Texas Roadhouse Partnership:
  - Date for fundraiser to be confirmed - TV appearance scheduled for February 23rd to promote event

### **Book Page**

- Bev will contact Book Page to inquire about possible prorated subscription later in the year

Meeting adjourned at 5:36

**Next meeting is Wednesday March 11, 2026, at 4:30**  
**Meeting location change to John McIntire Library**