

Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library
Minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2016

President Ellen Dewey and member Linda Greenwell introduced guest Shannon Johnson, Main Street Co-coordinator for Downtown Newton. In addition, Directors Martha Nemechek and Jenny Conner were introduced, along with Sioban Lowendorf of the Catawba County Library system.

Ms. Johnson spoke first, explaining that the Folk Art Fest, previously held in Sherrills Ford, was now going to be held in downtown Newton in October. She outlined the activities and emphasized Newton's commitment to the event. She explained the need for volunteers in all facets, and announced that an informational meeting would be held at this library on May 9.

Sioban then reported on news from the County Libraries, including the overwhelming success of the Big Read and all its events. She also mentioned the various items and programs available through "Tech-Connect" at the main library. The next projects are aimed towards those who don't have access to the internet or computers, and providing help for those seeking employment or career changes. Finally, she spoke about a new program to help with a pre-natal program in local hospitals, to help with early learning. They are seeking grants for funding of the new projects.

Ellen opened the business meeting and requested approval for the minutes from the February 2016 meeting. The minutes had been available on the website. On motion and second, the minutes were approved as presented.

There was no Treasurer's report and no Membership report. Ellen announced that the membership committee needs a Chairperson.

Library News: Jennifer Patterson outlined the summer reading programs planned which begin June 13th. She reported on the success of last summer's programs which included adults. Jennifer outlined the specific programs, the funding that would be provided, and her request for funding from the Friends of the Library. The funding request is as follows:

SFT specific Summer Reading Programs and Outreach

\$1,000 –programs

600 – school visits and supplies

300 – for every child who completes the program, each would be given a book

200 – donation to Catawba Co.Partnership for Children (Dolly Parton Imagination Library) for books

\$2,100 Total

Discussion centered on the costs from prior years, the attendance at various events, the literacy component of each program, and how each one included the basics: sing, talk read, plan and write. Sioban provided further detail as well. Jennifer also discussed the various school partnerships that would be held including the two elementary schools, Mill Creek Middle School, and Bandy's High School. The members indicated that the request would be considered and decided at the May meeting. Jennifer thanked the members for their continued support.

Ellen indicated that Joyce O'Neal had undergone back surgery but she would take items for the Newsletter via email.

Ellen presented reports from various committees: the Literacy committee on behalf of Barb Nelson, she noted that 140 students participate, there have been 4 books read in both elementary schools and there remained one book left this year. Also, Barb Nelson was still researching the possibility of participating in the American Girl doll and book program. And for the hardscape committee, Ellen reported that the members were waiting for feedback from the county.

Programs: The May 17th meeting will begin with a program by Robert Eades on the History of the Balls Creek Church Camp meetings.

Business: On behalf of the nominating committee, Linda Greenwell announced the slate of officers, which were all four existing officers: Ellen Dewey, President; Joanie Gardner, Vice President, Jan Harrison, Treasurer, and Carol Meyer, Secretary. The slate will be voted on at the May meeting. There was a short discussion on programs for the upcoming year, including whether to continue holding Fall Fest, the possibility of hosting a children's piano recital, and whether to continue the Christmas tree lighting and Santa visit. Some new programs were mentioned to consider including a nonfiction book club and possibly courses on music appreciation.

Joanie Gardner introduced a member in attendance, Dr. Carolee Cameron Duckworth, a local author who has written books on career choices and retirement. She will present a program in the coming year.

Community events include May 9, Mitchell CC band concert, 7:30 p.m. May 16th, Friends of the Library will attend the installation of a brick in honor of Ed Maddox in recognition for his community service, at 2:15 p.m.

The June 21st meeting will be the end of year social and installation of officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol B. Meyer, Secretary