

September 15, 2020
Zoom meeting of the Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library

Called to order at 7:00pm by Jeanne Lebens, President (16 members in attendance)

The meeting started by having all members introduce themselves and share what they have been up to during these COVID times.

1. Financial Updates

- Jeanne shared a new Treasure’s Report that Priya Palmer designed.
- The plan going forward is use the report to track actual income/expenses vs. budgeted income/expenses.

Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020

Actual Income	\$6,279.33	Actual Expenses	\$4,211.81
Budgeted Income	\$ 0	Budgeted Expenses	\$4,075.00
Over/(-) Under	\$6,279.33	Over/(-) Under	\$ 136.81

	Actual Income	\$6,279.33
	Actual Expense	\$4,211.81
	Over/(-) Under	\$2,067.52

- Ended the year \$137 over budget. We paid our website fees twice during the 2019/2020 year (simply a timing issue), so we are all paid up till June 2021. Additionally, a tablecloth was purchased with FOL name on it so we can promote our organization during future events. Partially offsetting these costs was savings from monies we had budgeted for spring programs that were cancelled/postponed.
- The majority of our income comes from the Book Bonanza and Basket Sales
- The majority of our expenses are used to support our programs

- We discussed whether income/expense information can or should be posted on the website. The income and expense pie charts and summary income and expenses could be posted, with more details available upon request.
- There was talk that we may be able to support a less expensive website than we currently use. This could help bring down our administrative costs. Other website options will be looked into for the next fiscal year. Priya mentioned that the League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley has a restricted page on their website that is only for members, where all minutes and financial reports are posted. Ellen & Jeanne will consider this option as part of the website review.

2. Monthly Programming (Linda)

- Catawba Lands Conservancy is still on the schedule for October 5 but should be postponed as this program is best if it's done in person.
- The Trio was the last event that was held via Zoom. There were 32 total people present with approx. 10 of them being artists. These numbers, both presenters and attendees, are down from last year's event.
- Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m., we sponsored a virtual session hosted by the League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley called "Voting 2020". It was attended by a small group.
- At this time, we are still unable to use the library meeting room even though NC recently moved into Phase 2.5 of its COVID response.
- Discussed whether we should continue to host Zoom events. Most people at the meeting felt that the community is not comfortable meeting in person yet and are getting tired of Zoom meetings since they may spend all day on Zoom for work. Attendance is down for events when using Zoom.
- The county library system currently has quite a few programs going strong (book clubs, fitness classes, etc.) and it would be beneficial for the FOL and library if we support the library's programming during this time through newsletter and emails to let the community know what is available through the library. The decision was made to suspend FOL virtual programs at this time and instead promote the various programs available through the county library system.

3. Summer Reading Program Results/Ice Cream Social replacement ideas

- Five kids completed the 600 minute Reading Challenge while 5 additional children completed the badge challenge. Two teens completed the 600 minute Reading Challenge.
- Since we were unable to have the celebratory ice cream social this summer, the FOL will purchase \$5 Publix gift cards, for ice cream, for each participant who completed the challenge. Jenny will insure the children and teens get the gift cards.

4. Catawba County Library Strategic Plan Update (Jenny)

- Rough Draft is finalized and is being reviewed by the County officials.
- SFTL is listed in the facilities portion of the draft noting that we are in need addition/bigger meeting space.

5. Creative Ideas for 2020/21 Programming and Expenditures

- **Monthly Programming** –Linda said will be no October programs (postponing Catawba Lands Conservancy program), no Zoom programs are scheduled but we will keep events planned from January 1, 2021 on the calendar and see how things proceed while we deal with COVID. Linda will see if Catawba Lands Conservancy would like to share some information for the FOL October newsletter until we can proceed with the program.
- **Holiday Event Concepts** (tentative) - Sheryl told the group that there will be three activities occurring this holiday. There will be a Santa drive thru where families can drive by in their cars to see Santa. Reservations required and Mary will assemble a small group of carolers who will be there to get everyone in the holiday spirit. There will be a package of gifts that includes a book and some holiday-themed items given to each child. The second event under consideration will be a virtual book reading to kids. There will be an activity kit to go along with the book. It was also suggested that if we use Facebook Live, it could be recorded so if someone can't make the reading, they can access it later and listen/complete the activity kit on their own or as a family. As a third initiative, gift baskets will be put together to help families that have fallen on hard time (based on lists of families provided by the local elementary schools). The baskets will contain books/food.

- **Holiday Gift Basket Idea** – Mary said we will be doing theme baskets this year and will work with Jenny to pick up the basket supplies stored at the library. Mary will work with Jenny to get some tips and ideas for posting baskets via social media to get bids on the baskets. One or two baskets at a time can be posted until sold and then additional baskets will be listed.
- **Supporting the branch's technology needs** – Jenny has let us know that the library is in need of a large format printer which will be set up for the public to use and pay for copies. A laminator is needed for staff use only. FOL members approved the purchase of both machines for \$2500. The library will purchase these items and the FOL will reimburse them for the expenses.
- **Literacy Program** – Meg informed us that there will be no reading in person for the entire school year. She talked about purchasing books for the classrooms to assist teachers. Jeanne asked if members might be able to read to the students via zoom. Meg will check with the schools.
- Jenny let us know that the library is limited in what it can do to support our Book Bonanza efforts at this time. There is no space to store book donations and Susan Hunsucker is not coming to the library to maintain the bookshelves right now. Jenny asked that members who want to donate books bring one or two at a time and put them on the shelves directly if there is space. The library staff will hold the money donations for the FOL as books are purchased.
- Erica mentioned that The Green Room in Newton is doing Shakespeare in the Park events on two weekends this Fall. These events were fully subscribed minutes after they were posted, suggesting that families are eager to participate in events outside their homes during these challenging times. Erica suggested that perhaps the Friends could work with the Green Room to host a similar event in Sherrills Ford, perhaps at a venue like Camp Dogwood's pavilion. Linda agreed to contact The Green Room to explore this idea.
- The general idea of hosting other events outside while the weather is still good (perhaps making use of Rohobeth church's picnic area?) could be a creative way to bring people together.

6. NC Friends of the Library Orientation

- Jeanne brought this up as a training opportunity for FOSFTL offices, Board Members, Committee Chairs and anyone else who may be interested. Jeanne will go through orientation to determine its value and update us on its usefulness.

7. Membership

- Currently 34 members for the 20/21 year (update: now 38 family members as of 9/16/2020)

8 Proposed Program Year 2020/2021 Budget

- Work with Jenny to promote an informational program to discuss Alzheimer's. The library will run it and FOL will help promote it.
- Complete the proposed budget once we have figures for cost of holiday events and baskets. Jeanne hoping to send out a proposed budget for membership approval at the end of the month.

The next FOL business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17 at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm. Kathy Camarco, Secretary

Attendees: Meg Thompson, Dana Pate (Board Member), Linda Greenwell, Priya Palmer, Sheryl Schuhouse, Emily Huling, Debbie McGiven, Paula Boyd, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Erica Batten (Board Member), Mary Young, Ellen Dewey, Jan Harrison, Joyce O'Neal, Jeanne Lebens, Kathy Camarco