

Friends of the Port Hope Public Library General Meeting Minutes
2019-12-15

Submitted by Elizabeth Manary

Attendance: Bruce Bowden (Co-Chair), Susan Abell (Member at Large), Derek Elion (Treasurer), Elizabeth Manary (Secretary), Margaret Scott, Stephanie MacKenzie, Margaret Heenan, Felicity Corelli, Bob Winterton, Margaret Darrah, Liz Stewart, Chris Winthrow, Carolyn Lowery, Dave Henderson

Call to Order: Casual discussion, no exact start time

Approval of Minutes: E-mail discussion over the December 3rd Executive Meeting Minutes

1. Corrected who would bring which refreshments
2. Corrected statement about bringing the \$10 fee to the general membership

Treasurer's Report: A bank account was open for the Friends, current balance \$0.00

Board Report: Decrease in budget.

Old Business:

1. Friends of the Library Bank Account - D. Elion - A bank account was opened at the Bank of Montreal on November 27th at 2:00pm for the Friends of the Library. Signatories are Bruce Bowden, Susan Abell, and Derek Elion.
2. Introduced Susan Abell as Co-Chair - Bruce B. - Spoke about why he welcomed the executive initiative to add Susan both to the Executive Committee and to sharing the role of Chair, how smoothly the group was working, without regard to specific role.

New Business:

1. Communication with Library Staff - Stephanie M. - Do the library staff know about our goals?
 - a. The Executive group has been communicating with Margaret Scott with Friends involving start-up, organization, and ideas.
 - b. The Board of the Library will be meeting to discuss the new budget and where the Friends can best help.
2. Access to the Library - group discussion - retirement communities and the homebound, schools, and the hospital do not have high access to the library.
 - a. Retirement communities and homebound - drop off delivery services were discontinued after materials were not returned.
 - i. Small permanent collections in some communities and some material delivered by staff on request.
 - ii. Reading to seniors suggested as a means to increase access.
 - iii. Ask organizations that support retirement communities and the homebound if they see a need for the library (example: meals on wheels)
 - b. Use by Schools - distance from the library is a major factor. Transportation is limited by insurance and liability.
 - c. Hospital - The old Port Hope hospital had a mobile library cart. Does the Northumberland Hills Hospital have one?
3. Young Families - group discussion

- a. Family programs involving food are always well attended - Northumberland EarlyON has a drop-in play-based program that is popular at The Hub in Canton.
- b. Susan Abell - suggestion to include a small selection of parent related materials within the children's section as done by the Halifax Library. Currently parents are separated from their kids by an entire floor.
- c. STEM programs and Maker's Space at Benson - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-based programs/spaces. Some programs would require more supervision (example: robotics).
4. The Hub in Canton - group discussion - The Hub branch has a Maker's Space including a gaming system, lego wall, and podcast equipment.
 - a. Gaming system is geared towards teens but is not as well used as staff would like.
 - b. Lego wall is very well used.
 - c. Podcast equipment is new and does not have designated staff to teach guests how to use it.
 - d. Margaret Scott - families are looking to be more efficient with their time. Rural families do not want to make multiple trips.
5. Teens - Margaret Scott - briefly explained the Techno Buddies and tutoring programs that allow youth to participate in the library.
6. Inter-Library Loan - group discussion - since budget cuts to inter-library loans the PHPL is continuing their program as-is to allow them to figure out how much it would cost to run on their own.
 - a. Is there a place for the FoL to assist? - packaging/delivering/funding?

Adjournment: 3pm

Next Meeting: TBA