

Friends of the Whitman County Library – Zoom meeting March 2, 2021

In attendance: Sue Hallett, Jil Mohr, Connie Horton, Dana Hogan, Kylie Fullmer, Shirley Cornelius, Nichole Kopp, Sarah Phelan, Kathy Buchholtz

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Hallett at 11:00 pm. The February minutes were presented. Jil made a motion to approve the minutes as read, and Dana seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes will be added to the website.

Kylie shared thank you notes written to the FOL thanking them for their generous support in funding the WCL staff Valentine's Day zoom celebration, including thanks for all their continual support year round. Sue added that she felt it a pleasure and privilege to provide that support.

Old business: The town of Oakesdale is working with a .09 grant to make their library front entryway safer. The library is providing input on the update. The Palouse Wind Farm through its owner Novatus Energy provided funding for more open hours at the Oakesdale branch and a new computer station.

The theater putting on the May Hutton play related to women's suffrage moved their performance from in person to online due to current restrictions. The library decided attendance would probably be too low online, and will either revisit a program with them in the future or the donor has approved spending the funds on a different library program.

New business: Presidents report – In January, FOL volunteers helped mail out over 600 newsletters. Dana Hogan, Cheryl Jones, Polly Anderson, Joyce Leonard, Jil Mohr, and Sue Hallett were phenomenal workers. Also, over 50 handwritten thank you letters for donations were sent out by friends, Dana, Polly, Jil, Joyce, and Sue, in addition to Shirley's email thank you messages.

Adult services – Sarah Phelan reported on the upcoming Zoom event for the book "Eden Mine" by PNW author S.M. Hulse. It will take place on Thursday, March 25th at 6:00 pm., and will include a Q & A session at the end.

Food for fines- Kylie said results are still being tallied and she will forward a report to the FOL.

Supporter of the month – Mary DeGon, Pam Jacobs and the Town of Oakesdale are recognized for supporting the Oakesdale Library during the pandemic. They have been working to provide a safer and more attractive library through town grant funding.

Branch update - Malden and Rosalia will hold an Arbor Day program that provides native species tree seedlings. Some of those will be provided by Plant of the Wild in Tekoa, Washington, and supported by Palouse Conservation District, Thunderhawk Ranch and Friends of Rosalia and Malden libraries.

Treasurer's report: Shirley screen shared the financial report. Notable items were the increase in funds gained through Amazon Smile, membership dues coming in, and Summer Reading donations.

Youth services – Nichole Kopp is excited to be back in schools with STEM programming. This week she'll be in the 2nd grade, 6th grade, and the Jr. High. April is National Poetry Month. Rosalia is sponsoring Grab & Go Blackout Poetry kits, and Endicott is holding a Poetry Slam event. Nichole will visit Steptoe and JES to hold a Blackout Poetry and accompanying artwork event, ending with a display in the Libey Gallery.

Upcoming events – The Center is open. Tom Mohr, Nancy Rothwell, Marlo Robbins and Molly Rice all have new displays.

Current Library guidelines – We are currently at 25% occupancy. Patrons may browse for 15 minutes (including The Center) and use computers for 30 minutes. We also have curbside service for pick-up and laptop use. The use, check out length and a general explanation of hotspots was discussed. The State Library and a generous donor have provided some of the funding for the data plans for the hotspots.

Connie asked what the library policy was for items that may come under question by patrons or community members, in light of the recent Dr. Seuss controversy. Kylie spoke to the matter with information on the reconsideration forms available to submit and the board's role. She shared that a library does its best to provide a wide selection of materials for its patrons without judgement, but is not opposed to discussion and resolution when there is concern. Sue thanked Connie for the question and for providing the opening for the discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Buchholtz