

FRIENDS' REPORT TO TRUSTEES

Friends of the Catskill Public Library and Palenville Branch, Inc.

October 16, 2024

Highlights of October 8, 2024 Friends' Board Meeting

The October 8, 2024 Board Meeting of the Friends Group was held by Google Meet. The meeting focused on details of the Membership drive, review of Afternoon of Enchantment event, Free Little Library Project in collaboration with Rotary and discussion about next events - Book Swap and Mingle and potential Author's Event.

Two grant opportunities were also discussed and will be pursued. Partners for Climate Action - Ecological Restoration Grant/RFP has been reviewed and it appears that the Friends are eligible to apply for an At-Risk Pollinator Habitat for the library (and branch) in the amount between \$1,000 and \$50,000. If awarded the grant may be used to purchase restoration materials such as seeds, plants, tools, fencing etc. Funds may also support staff and contractor hours devoted directly to the implementation of the project.

The second grant is with the Catskill Community Center and an application will be submitted to request a grant for the Friends to curate an Author's Event for Friends' Members and the Community.

Our next meeting in November will be focused on looking ahead to 2025, Goals and Strategies, and the Friends have requested a "Wish List" from Christopher and staff so that we can strengthen our future focus and activities.

Treasurer's Report

Total balance effective 9.28.24 = \$ 3, 262.59. Reconciliation of material costs, advertising and promotion is pending from Afternoon of Enchantment, however, budget and expenses for the Enchantment event is in keeping with income allocated from CCC grant (\$1,500) and sponsorship of the event (\$1,000).

Liability insurance and event coverage was obtained (\$250) with Hanover. Director's and Officers Insurance (\$575) will be obtained as more revenue is generated. We worked with Marshall & Sterling.

Membership Drive and Status

Total Current Memberships = 26 This includes READER (6) AUTHOR (10) EDITOR (6) PUBLISHER (0) ARISTOCAT (4) (effective 10/8/24, there was an uptick in Membership from 21 to 26).

Membership swag is still under development and we are working with a local artist for design.

There were three recent occasions for "tabling" and Member acquisition which included the Farmer's Market in collaboration with the library (9/29), First Friday in Catskill (9/6). Each occasion was successful in promoting the Friends in support of the library.

The Friends will continue to pursue upcoming opportunities for Membership acquisition which include

future tabling events, promotional materials at Circulation Desks at Libraries, Mailings, and promotion at library events.

Networking and Promotion - Some Updates

The Friends and the Library have been invited to collaborate with Rotary in a Free Little Library Project and this is underway. The first one was beautifully painted at the Enchantment event by the community and will be placed on Main Street (near Citiot) in Catskill. We are hoping to have a ribbon-cutting once the little library has been mounted on a moveable platform. There are several more Little Libraries to come for further placement in the surrounding school district community. We will be meeting with Rotary, Library staff to coordinate.

The Rotary Club of Catskill invited Joy and Christopher to become members. Induction and Orientation is slated for this month. Rotary is committed to service and literacy projects are a key component on the international level. The Friends are very excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Library and Rotary on the Little Free Library project and future service projects in keeping with our shared literacy promoting mission.

Joy met with Columbia-Greene College President and Librarian to tour the college library and network re: future joint projects, obtaining a student intern and potential future Board member(s).

The Friends are seeking a Member recruiting opportunity at the upcoming High School Faculty Basketball game next month. One of our Board members, Tom McAlister (High School librarian) is coordinating and participating in the event.

The Friends have been invited to participate in the Solstice community-wide event in December.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Farmer's Market with the Library - 4th Sunday of the Month- one more to go - 10/27

Book Swap and Mingle TBD

Author's Event TBD

Annual Meeting - in combination with Event

*NYLA Conference: Hope to attend a workshop or two specifically planned for Friends Groups.

Next Friends Meeting: Second Tuesday of Month, November 12, 2024, 6PM at 1 Franklin Street or by Google Meet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joy DeVita

Friends of the Catskill Public Library and Palenville Branch, Inc.