

Friends Newsletter

Volume 13, No. 1

of the Sun Prairie Public Library

Fall 2022

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, November 14th at 6:00pm, in person in the library's Community Room. A light meal will be served before the meeting, at 5:30. All Friends members are encouraged to attend! If you plan to attend, please RSVP by November 9th to Friends staff liaison, Erin Williams Hart, at 608-825-0902 or ewilliamshart@sunlib.org.

If you will be unable to attend but would still like to participate in the voting process, a proxy form will be available on the Friends' webpage at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting: www.sunlib.org/friends. The proxy form may be printed off, filled out, and mailed to or dropped off at the library. It must be returned by November 9th.

BYLAW CHANGE

Once again, we have had an unusual year. We have, however, made some progress. One of the items our board has worked on is to have junior memberships available for the Friends group. This will allow students age 13 through 17 to have an inexpensive membership in our Friends group.

The proposed bylaw change is as follows (additions are in red):

Section 4.1 Classes of Membership. The Corporation will have the following classes of members:

- (1) Individual
- (2) Family/Household
- (3) Sponsor
- (4) Patron
- (5) Benefactor
- (6) Lifetime
- (7) Junior

The Corporation sets forth the various classes of membership to recognize differences in circumstances and the ability to pay. A "family/household" membership shall be offered to all members of a household that live in the same residence. Individuals or groups that wish to provide extraordinary financial support to the Corporation shall be recognized by receiving Sponsor, Patron, Benefactor or Lifetime memberships. Junior memberships are offered to teens who are 13 to 17 years of age.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

– Sally Campbell

The Nominating Committee will be presenting several candidates for the Friends Board of Directors at our Annual Meeting in November. They are: Dennis Austin (incumbent), Pat Lund, and Peter Smith. One additional name will be on the ballot after she is voted on at our October Board of Directors meeting. Mardy Blaschka has once again completed her final 3-year term and will be going off the board after the November meeting. Thank you, Mardy, for your many years of service on the Friends Board of Directors and for all that you have done and continue to do for the Sun Prairie Public Library.

MEMBERSHIP

– Mardy Blaschka & Sally Campbell

It's that time of year to renew your Membership with the Friends for 2023. ARE WE STILL FRIENDS? Please use the enclosed envelope to return your membership payment, or you can renew and pay online on the Friends webpage (www.sunlib.org/friends). Our membership levels are as follows: Individual - \$10.00, Family - \$15.00, Sponsor \$25.00, Patron \$50.00, Benefactor \$100, and Lifetime \$500.00. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your membership is tax deductible. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us, or to gift a friend with a membership. In 2022, we've had 18 new members, and we have a total of 12 Lifetime members. Thank you very much for keeping your membership current and we hope you had a good summer and see you all in the near future.

The Membership Committee was part of several events this past year. We held a membership drive during National Library Week in April and obtained several new members, attended the Saturday Farmer's Market in downtown Sun Prairie in June and July (weather prohibited us from attending in August), National Night Out on Market Street in August, and the Multicultural Fair on Linnerud Drive in September. We will have our annual Membership Drive again this year in October at the library and are looking for volunteers. It will be held during National Friends of Libraries Week, October 16-22, so check your calendars and watch for our email! We all need to be advocates for our library and our Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library organization. Thanks for your support!

MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS BOARD PRESIDENT – Cindy Mestelle

Our Friends board, membership, volunteers and library staff helped keep the Read Before Book Store open. This was crucial since revenues from the bookstore help to fund library programs and wish list items for the library.

I can't thank the library staff, volunteers, members and the Friends board enough for an incredible job this past year. Once again we had to figure out ways to serve our members and bookstore customers while keeping safe.

We will hold our annual meeting in person for the first time in three years. It will be at the library on November 14, 2022 at 5:30 pm with a light supper followed by the annual meeting beginning at 6 pm. Membership will work to approve the 2023 budget, elect new board members and hear about the library expansion project. Discussion about the library expansion will provide information on opportunities for our membership to get involved.

Once again, thank you to our dedicated membership. Renewing your membership helps provide funds to the library for programming.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity) COMMITTEE – Cindy Mestelle

In 2021 the Friends board formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity committee. We currently have 4 members but are always looking for fresh perspectives. This committee meets every two weeks currently to review and propose changes to policies, procedures and bylaws to make our board welcoming to many different perspectives. The DEI committee also reviews the procedures for the Read Before Book Store to help the bookstore be a safe and welcoming place not only for our volunteers but also our customers.

We have worked on the following:

1. We hosted an Anti-bias training session this July for our volunteers of the bookstore and new board members.
2. We changed our board meeting time and date to the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.
3. We are proposing a bylaw change to create junior membership in the Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library group.
4. We have reviewed book store policies, board bylaws and procedures, and asked for revisions where necessary. One of the book store policies requiring revision is to allow volunteers to be 16 years of age and up instead of 18 years of age and up. All position descriptions were reviewed in 2022 and changed where necessary.

5. We distributed bookmarks to various businesses in Sun Prairie and several places inside the Sun Prairie Public Library. These bookmarks introduced the Friends board and opportunities within the Friends.
6. We plan to work with the Sun Prairie schools not only in finding student directors but also to work with student and parent groups to tell about the Friends, how we work in the community, and opportunities within the Friends.
7. We had a booth at the Multicultural Fair in Sun Prairie. We also had a table at the downtown Sun Prairie farmers market monthly this summer. We provided books at both these events.

Realizing this committee was formed less than two years ago, we still have a significant amount of work to do and know that this is an ongoing process. We have established a spreadsheet and timeline where we can monitor our progress and review items during the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bill Rockeman

The Read Before Book Store has been open for all of 2022 and we have seen activity pick up as the year has progressed. Revenue from our store will exceed budget levels this year.

Total revenue for the eight months ended August 31 is \$15,097. This consists of bookstore sales of \$10,460, membership dues of \$1,750 and donations of \$402. E-Bay revenue from online books sales totaled \$2,485 through August also.

Expenses have remained steady this year and we continue to fund programming and other items that the Friends support. Larger expenses include programming for \$3,500, pop, water and snacks for \$1,070, and the wish list for \$4,500.

The balance in checking at the end of August was \$27,175.80 and we do have two CDs invested at a local bank. The Art Fund CD has a balance of \$18,429.52 and the savings CD has a balance of \$11,199.41. Total funds at the end of August were \$56,986.18.

Read Before Book Store – Ann Semmann

The Read Before Book Store is moving forward. We're near pre-pandemic sales. Two very large donations of valuable books, vinyl records, etc., and many smaller ones have come to us this past year which have helped our sales. Contributing to our "moving forward" are the many dedicated Friends volunteers. Among the best of them is Brooke Diercks who schedules volunteers to work two hour shifts in the bookstore, when the library is open, and it isn't always easy. Another "best" is Dennis Austin, who purchases all the pop, takes care of the audio/visual donations, etc. Also

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

2022 has been an exciting year and I'm so happy to say, our library usage has been robust! In fact, our Summer Library Program participation was back to pre-pandemic levels, with Library Champion signs in English, Spanish, and Hindi proudly on display throughout the community!

With funding and support from the Friends, the adult book club kit collection has really grown. Many titles and authors reflect diverse experiences and perspectives and provide an opportunity for community members to gather with friends and neighbors for thought-provoking discussions. In addition, we are thankful for the continued support of the Youth Summer Library Program Kick-off and Finale, Live Music Events and Spanish language collection. We are also looking forward to providing charging stations later this year as more residents use our library to stay connected on their personal devices.

This fall, we hosted several opportunities for community engagement through virtual and in-person listening sessions and

online and paper surveys in English and Spanish as we develop a new three year strategic plan for 2023-2025. The library is working with ReThinking Libraries, a national library consulting firm. The strategic plan will assist the library staff and trustees to develop an action plan and prioritize library projects over the next three years. Keeping in mind unexpected trends and changes in the profession, the plan will be drafted to allow the library flexibility to adapt its offerings to best meet its goals. The end result will be a plan for the Sun Prairie Public Library that will clearly identify the needs and aspirations of the community with both quantitative and qualitative data. We anticipate the final strategic plan will be adopted in December and implemented in January.

And of course, we are working behind the scenes as we advance the much anticipated library expansion and renovation project. A lot of work has taken place with much more to come!

Below is a summary of past activities and next steps:

- **2018: Architectural Analysis with FEH Design and Community Advisory Task Force.**
- **Oct-Dec 2019: Library Board reviews recommendation from Architectural Analysis- 89,000 SF Main Library with possible future branch locations- and requests further study for a smaller main library than this initial recommendation.**
- **February 2019: Library Board approves 74,000 SF Main Library (\$19.5M, based on 2020 costs).**
- **May 2019: Endorsement from COW for 74,000 SF Main Library.**
- **February 2020: Library Board approves 55,000 SF Main Library due to other city department needs.**
- **March 2020: Pause on expansion plan as focus shifts to pandemic.**
- **March – October 2021: Using fund balance, Library Board begins conceptual design process with FEH Design, LPA, "Next Chapter Team", community focus groups, and Community SPARK Session.**
- **November 2021: Library Board approves 61,500 SF, \$19.9M Library Expansion & Renovation.**
- **January 2022: Presentation of Conceptual Plan to Sun Prairie City Council.**
- **January-April 2022: SPPL Foundation Board approves taking on the Capital Campaign fundraising project.**
- **May 2022: SPPL Foundation completes Fundraising Feasibility Study with Sweeney Group and begins silent portion of Capital Campaign.**



- May – August 2022: Sun Prairie City Council reviews 10 year Capital Improvement Plan.
- August 16, 2022: Sun Prairie City Council approves 10 year Capital Improvement Plan.
- September 6, 2022: MOU between the City, the Library Board, and Library Foundation regarding the funding responsibilities for the expansion and renovation was approved.

NEXT STEPS:

- November 2022: Announce Request for Proposals for Owner's Representative, after approval of City budget.
- January 2023: Library hires Owner's Representative.
- February/March 2023: Library hires architectural firm and begin full design process.
- Fall 2023: Prepare construction bidding documents.
- January 2024: Begin construction.
- Summer 2025: Opening of expanded and renovated Sun Prairie Public Library!

The Friends generosity and advocacy is a huge gift to the entire community as we continue to strive for excellence in public library services for today and for future generations. On behalf of the entire SPPL staff and board, we are deeply grateful for your continuous support.

With gratitude,

Svetha Hetzler

Sun Prairie Public Library Director

Learn more about the Sun Prairie Public Library's Expansion and Capital Campaign at:

<https://www.sunlibfoundation.org/nextchapter>

NEWS FROM THE SUN PRAIRIE LIBRARY FOUNDATION —Theresa Stevens

The Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation is in a capital campaign to raise \$3.5 million for the expansion of the library. As we work to get to 60% of our goal through early leadership gifts, we are also looking forward to the more public phase of the capital campaign and getting the entire community involved.

To kick-off the campaign the Foundation has taken up an initiative called 100 Extraordinary Women in which we have asked women and men to give/pledge \$1,000 and the collective gift will support a colorful, creative entry into the Children's space with each donor or honoree's name included within the artwork. We have over 100 Extraordinary Community Members who have turned in their forms! The celebration event is scheduled for October 6th with guest speaker Dr. Jasmine Zapata. If you missed this one, stay tuned for future group giving initiatives!

We are grateful to the Friends who have already participated in 100 Extraordinary Women, are working to find ways to support the campaign and expansion project, and who help share updates as we have them.



our Friend's Treasurer, Bill Rockeman, who handles the financial aspects of the RBBS, is a real asset. Val Hanson, the long-time children's book organizer is invaluable. Cindy Mestelle, who purchases snacks and Dee Stopfer, the stores paper goods, are much appreciated. Also very helpful to sorting and shelving books is Etta Heizman. Finally what would we do without the many volunteers who take shifts in the book store. Thanks to all of them.



On a sad note, one our best Friends of the Sun Prairie Library, Ken Stofflet, passed away this last summer. We miss him.

eBay – Terry Larson

It has been a pretty good eBay sales year. Our sales from January through August almost reached \$2,500. After subtracting the postage expense, we've netted about \$2,050 so far this year. The postal rates for media mail increased this year so our postage expense is higher than anticipated. There's good news with our mailing process though. This year we've been able to use the Sun Prairie Library Foundation computer to print our postage and labels. That means when a book sells, we find it on our shelves in the library's mail room or RBBS storage corner, put it in a mailing envelope, weigh it on the postage scale, print the postage/label, tape it onto the envelope, and put it in the library's outgoing mail basket. It saves a trip to the post office. (If you have padded mailing envelopes, please bring them to the RBBS so we can use them for mailing books. It saves us from having to buy the envelopes!)

We have over 300 items listed on eBay. The eBay inventory is mostly books but there are a few DVDs/CDs listed also. With almost triple the number of items



The eBay committee received an Innovation award during the library's annual Volunteer Appreciation event

from a year ago, our need for more space has increased. Thanks to Ann Semmann for her fine cooperation in allowing us to use some of the RBBS storage shelves for eBay items.

Thanks to Mary Chermak and Emma O'Shea for finding the high-value books to list. Also, thanks to Mary for packaging and mailing the books that have been sold. Pat Wende

does most listing our books/items on eBay. Thanks to Pat, the number of listed items jumped from 100+ to around 300! To see the books/items we have listed, visit: <https://www.charity.ebay.com/charity/Friends-of-the-Sun-Prairie-Library-Inc/1610988>

We look forward to good eBay book sales in the months ahead. We appreciate the good support of the Friends Board, the library staff, and all the volunteers of the RBBS. If you'd like to join our eBay book sales team, please let me know. Thank you!

PROGRAMS – Erin Williams Hart

Despite the pandemic dragging on, the library was finally able to start holding programs for adult and children in person again this year! The youth Summer Library Program was back to being a very robust program with multiple events throughout the summer, including Kick-off and Finale events which were funded by the Friends. The Friends also provided and served up snow cones at the Kick-off event—more than 500 of them!



Adult programming has also resumed in person, though we are still offering occasional virtual events, such as a Live Music guitar concert performed by Ricardo Parra, who performed via Zoom all the way

from Chile! The Friends also funded music duo Cherry & Jerry, who gave a great concert with historical context, out on the lawn next to the library on a beautiful summer evening. In June, the Friends funded a very special presentation by Eddie and Mary Sue Short, an interracial married couple who talked about their experiences as Freedom Fighters during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

We are so grateful to the Friends for supporting such wonderful and diverse programs for our community!





1350 Linnerud Dr.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2022 Friends of the Library Board Members:

Cindy Mestelle, President
Frank Peot, Vice President
Bill Rockeman, Treasurer
Terry Larson, Assistant Treasurer
Sally Campbell, Secretary
Dennis Austin
Mardy Blaschka
Shane Heim
Kenny Kim
Pat Lund
Donna Mackey
Sue Ann Klein
Ann Semmann
Elizabeth Kim, Junior Board Member
Jimmiyah Duncan, Junior Board Member



STAYING IN CONTACT

We send out periodic e-newsletters via email to keep our FRIENDS in the loop. If you are not receiving the e-newsletter and would like to, please send us an email at sunlibraryfriends@gmail.com. And... look for us on Facebook!

