

FRIENDS OF THE IRRIGON LIBRARY

PO Box 63 – Irrigon, OR 97844 – friendsoftheirrigonlibrary@gmail.com

Notes from 5/15/24 Meeting

In attendance:

Shirley David gkdavid@bmi.net

Nancy Cano Nancyhiatt@msn.com

Rachel Newport Rachel.newport@hotmail.com

Cirita Lopez and Kathy Street also present

Commencement

Meeting called to order 7:20 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Irrigon Library.

First Meeting of 2024

The meeting was posted on the Irrigon Facebook page in an effort to attract new members and the general public. Since the passing of Barbara Huwe, the Founder of Friends of the Irrigon Library, the goal of FOIL is to regain interest and membership to continue supporting literacy in Morrow County.

Financial and Annual Compliance Filings

Inquiry: Can FOIL apply for CREZ monies; Kathy advises FOIL cannot as the funds are for enhancement and development of Morrow County and its municipalities.

Friends of the Irrigon Library received a large donation from Lamb Weston for support for the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. FOIL received donations from a number of individuals and one trust in remembrance of Barbara Huwe during the Winter.

The following required filings have been completed and timely filed:

2024 Annual Report - Oregon Secretary of State

2023 CT-12 Form for Oregon Charities – Oregon Department of Justice

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program:

Kathy advised the Dolly Parton program being made available for the entire State of Oregon, following the State of Washington in 2022. Gov. Kotek unveiled the statewide expansion of the program saying the state will work toward its goal to bring the monthly book service available to all 220,000 Oregon children ages 0-5, promoting early interest in reading and literacy development.

Kathy says she understands that United Way will pay 50% and established organizations (such as FOIL) pays 50%. Friends of the Irrigon Library pay on average an annual amount of \$6,728 to fund the program for the children of Morrow County and relies on donations from businesses to support this program. Kathy notes that the cost is \$12.50 per child per month and currently there are over 500 children throughout Morrow County enrolled; a child graduates from the program upon reaching the age of 5 years (kindergarten age).

Fundraising

There is discussion with regard to fundraising. We need to be reaching out to Morrow County businesses for support; Kathy says she has a letter that could perhaps be modified and will share it with FOIL. FOIL used to host an Irrigon softball tournament during the Irrigon Watermelon Festival but softball in the surrounding areas (including Tri-Cities) has moved from amateur ball to competitive tournament play so an Irrigon softball tournament fundraiser during the height of Summer will not raise enough funds to cover the expense of hosting the event. A raffle event was also discussed – Rachel notes that in the past Barb would solicit donations from businesses for items to raffle with a net of less than \$300. and that the FOIL group does not have access to the contacts Barb developed during her long business career before retiring.

Literary Events

Moving away from fundraising and onto a strategy for promoting interest in the library and literacy for everyone. FOIL will be contacting 3-4 authors and ask if they would participate in an afternoon of telling their stories about how they came to become authors and talk about the books they have written. Kathy suggests FOIL to have a “sign up for Friends of the Irrigon Library membership” table at the event. Kathy said she recently attended such an event that hosted an author from The Dalles and it was excellent. Further discussion of an event date will be forthcoming.

Kathy also suggested utilizing the Irrigon Library’s Meeting Room, which will soon be renamed to honor Barb Huwe for her contributions over many years to make the Irrigon Library possible. Themed parties with refreshments to discuss a certain genre are a possibility. There was also discussion regarding how to best manage excess books from the library.

Scholarship

FOIL received 6 scholarship applications this year and a recipient was chosen. The individuals submitting applications were very impressive and we have some amazing young people in our community. There was also discussion regarding revision to the scholarship application form for the future which will include not only colleges but also trade schools.

Request for Support

Kathy requests FOIL donate \$500-\$800 to the Library Summer Reading program; all agree to FOIL supporting this request.

NOTE: It was found that this request was not finalized at the 5/15/24 meeting so a Special Vote was held on 5/21/24: \$500 approved for the program; check to be forwarded to Library District office.

Record Retention

All records received from the late Barb Huwe’s estate will be reviewed and retained according to retention guidelines.

Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.