

Friends of Ainsworth Public Library
August 21, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Jill Plastridge at 6:09 p.m.

Present: Tina Carminati, Laura Carter, Helen Duke, Sarah Lafayette, Jill Plastridge, and Sarah Snow.

Old Business:

- Approving July meeting minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Voting on August tote-bag Contest Winner(s)

Helen made a motion, seconded by Tina, to approve July meeting minutes with amendment of August meeting date from the 7th to the 21st. Motion passed.

Sarah L. presented numbers on current balance in the Friend's account:
--Total Balance: \$2,334.10 after an initial deposit of \$752 by the current Friend's group (this is money from the Town-wide Yard Sale (\$23 with an additional \$75 donated to the Friend's) and Bottle Drive)

Laura made a motion, seconded by Sarah L., to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion Passed.

Voting for the winner of the tote bag decorating contest will take place at **11am on Saturday, August 23rd** at the library. It was decided that the group will choose two winners, one child entry and one adult entry.

When discussing logistics of getting the bags printed, the group had many ideas including ordering and printing through Amazon (cheapest option). Tina or Sarah L. will reach out to the local printing company, Yipes!, to see if they would be willing to donate their services and/or price out the cost for us before we move forward with printing on Amazon.

New Business:

- September Restaurant Fundraiser
- Pampered Chef Fundraiser
- October Schedule of events
- Membership drive

There was lots of discussion about the next most immediate fundraisers for the Friend's group happening in September and October.

Sept Fundraiser(s):

- For marketing purposes, the group decided to call the restaurant fundraiser: Fall Family Dinners. Tina is coordinating with the owner of The Den, Sarah L. is talking to Taylor Beaudett from La Carnos and Valerie at Ladder 1. Everyone will report back to Sarah S. **by August 28th** so that she can make the flyer for the event.
- Pampered Chef Fundraiser has been on-going and only one order has been placed. Laura suggested that the group choose an end-date to create more scarcity so that folks will get their orders in. Group agreed that the **fundraiser will end on Sept. 30th**. There is currently a post on the Friend's Facebook page with the link to order, as well as pamphlets at the library desk.

October:

- Bottle Drive #2 **October 25**—set up will be like the bottle drive set up in June (in front of the library). Jill is going to reach out to a connection with the Boy Scouts to see if they would be interested in getting involved to assist with the bottle drive, especially after the event is over to bring bottles to the Beverage Baron, or other sorting facility. There was discussion that we could also hold a membership drive at the Trunk-or-Treat part of the event on the 25th. Sarah L. also shared that there is a possibility they could get air time on local radio show, AiredOut, to announce the group.
- Laura will not be able to attend the event at the end of the month and has volunteered to hold an additional book shed sale at the beginning of the month, **October 4th, from 9-2pm**. To prepare for the book sale, Laura will also catalogue the books in the shed and the Friend's materials in the Friend's closet on the second floor of the library. Laura will work on coordinating times to do this with the library clerks to ensure that she has the keys she needs to put on the event.

The group will talk more about the bottle drive at the September meeting.

During the conversation, Laura asked what the library needed so that the Friend's group can work on identifying where they should spend the money that the group is fundraising for or to be able to advertise fundraising with the goal in mind. Some items or programs that were discussed include:

- Red Clover and Golden Dome Books; previous Friend's group used to buy these books for the library, this is about 35 books total

- Christmas Tree (usually real); Sarah L. mentioned that her work may be able to donate a fake tree that is no longer being used. Sarah L. will follow-up and get back to the group
- Thermal Window Covers to help with the cost of heat in Winter and to keep it cooler in the Summer; there are 16 windows total

Bigger ticket items include:

- Support funding for the Inter-library Loan (ILL) program; due to federal cuts and ILL being a mandatory service, this will eat up a lot of the libraries budget; cost ~\$2,000
- Asbestos issues in the basement of the building

Lastly, Jill recommended that the group consider a barn quilt fundraiser which was met with interest, but the group will table until Spring. Sarah S. also asked if this meeting could have a zoom-link for those who are unable to attend in person but would like to be part of the meetings. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11th, at 6:00 p.m. (the second Thursday of the month). Laura made a motion, seconded by Sarah L, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carter
Secretary of Friends of APL