



Meeting Details

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| Date & Time | November 21, 2024 6:30PM |
| Venue: | Benbrook Library Meeting Room |
| Attendees: | Richard Reese, Karla Reese, Bridgett Adrian, Claudette Huddleston, Debby Matthews, Russell Kegley |

Agenda Details

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| Call to Order |
| Minutes Approval(s) |
| Reports - Financials |
| Financial Business A. Storage Unit 20% Discount B. Better Impact Renewal C. North Texas Giving Day Update |
| Other Business A. Book Sale Volunteers & Prep B. Library Updates |
| Adjournment |

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: In Steve Cobb's absence, Russell Kegley opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Minutes Approval: Minutes from the August meeting were approved by acclamation.

Reports: A. Financials – October was mostly a quiet month revenue-wise. Income from the eBay and Little Bookstore accounts totaled \$212.45, and expenses for the Benbrook storage unit ran to \$120.00. A one-time expense to send Bridgett Adrian to a nonprofit training course cost \$400.00, meaning our checking account has \$6,432.07 at the end of October. At the time of

the meeting,

B. November 2024 Book Sale Profits – The book sale held November 1-3 yielded some \$1858 in donations. Along with the North Texas Giving Day donations totaling about \$1775 will mean an increase to the Friends account of over \$3,600 at month's end, meaning the account should be about \$10,000 at that time.

C. Album Vendor Market Recap – Debby Matthews and Russell Kegley staffed a table at the Album 55+ apartment community vendor market November 16. Activity was quiet at our table, but we had several good conversations with residents and answered questions about the Friends and the Library.

Financial Business: A. “The Power of Us: A Celebration” is the theme of the annual Library end-of-year party, hosted by the Friends. Bridgett had surveyed library staff for food issues, and presented two suitable menus from two vendors, one a more traditional Thanksgiving/Christmas menu featuring turkey, mashed potatoes, etc. and the other from an Italian caterer with salad and pasta dishes. After some discussion, we decided to go with the more traditional menu, supplied in a buffet pan format.

B. Teen Room Revamp Funding Proposal – The Library requested funds to help brighten up the Teen Room, which some patrons had said would make it more inviting to that group of patrons. The request includes a new sign for the door, LED lighting for the shelving, and a neon sign for the wall; the total expense comes to \$204.82. This expense was approved.

C. Benbrook Chamber of Commerce Membership – Bridgett reported that the Chamber showed the Friends as members in good standing for 2024, despite the fact that the check written to cover our dues has never been cashed. Karla recommended voiding that check so we can get it off our books, which was approved. We discussed the benefit accruing to the Friends of being members of the Chamber, which mostly amount to being good neighbors to our community. We might revisit this when the Chamber renewal comes up in 2025.

D. Storage Unit Cost Evaluation – the storage unit in Hudson Oaks/Weatherford we rent to contain the library shelving went up in cost by \$30 per month. Karla pointed out that it was approaching the break-even point where rental truck mileage to drive that far (a little over 40 miles per round trip per sale) might mean we'd be just as well off renting a slightly more expensive unit closer to the Library. We will put this as an item to examine in the run-up to the next book sale.

Other Business: A. BOARD ELECTIONS – We elected new officers for the 2025 calendar year. Russell Kegley was elected President, Richard Reese will become 1st Vice President, Claudette Huddleston will continue as 2nd Vice President, Karla Reese will become Treasurer, and Debby Matthews was elected Reporting Secretary. Stephen Cobb will move into a Member-at-Large capacity.

B. Holly Jolly event December 14 – The Friends agreed to supply volunteers to operate

the hot chocolate/snack table during this annual Library celebration.

C. Spring 2025 Book Sale Dates – This year the Library plans to be closed to normal operations April 1-4, meaning the Friends could use April 1 and 2 for sale setup, and perhaps begin the actual sale on Thursday, April 3 instead of waiting for Friday as we normally have. We plan to see how being open an additional day might affect donations.

D. Book Nook at Album Benbrook – Russell had thought we might want to create a book distribution area at Album Benbrook similar to that at the YMCA; however, during the Album vendor market we saw that they actually have an overflowing managed book exchange area, and might rather give some of their excess as donations to the Friends. Debby Matthews is an Album resident and ask about this.

E. Book Donations to “Meals with Meaning” – A Fort Worth nonprofit that provides weekly meals to homeless neighbors in the Lancaster area asked if we could help them distribute books to their clients. As these would be paperbacks, we asked Claudette if we had sufficient supplies of paperbacks to support this; she says the supply is tight, but we will look into it.

F. Friends Newsletter – Russell mentioned that it would be helpful to have a quarterly email newsletter sent to the Library and Friends mailing lists, outlining the various activities the Friends support. Richard pointed to the monthly meeting minutes as a good source of information to supply the newsletter, and Bridgett said she could easily put together an attractive email newsletter if we provide the content. We will begin doing this soon.

G. Friends Monthly Meeting Schedule – This item has two parts. First, we agreed that we will not hold the December 2024 meeting, as it falls the week before the Christmas holidays. Second, we discussed changing the regular meeting time from its current 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM. We had made this change in 2023 hoping it would allow people still working to attend, but this has not made any difference. General agreement was that we will move the meeting to lunchtime-early afternoon on a weekday starting some time in 2025. Bridgett will look at the Library calendar for 2025 for meeting room availability during those times, probably on a Thursday.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM