

Friends of ImagineIF Libraries
Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2023
ImagineIF Library Kalispell

F. McAllister called the Friends of ImagineIF Libraries (FOIL) meeting to order at 12:00 PM with 15 members present.

Attendees: Francy McAllister, Roxie Lehl, Marylane Pannell, Bonnie Gardner, Patti Young, Janice Kalvig, Pam Haglund, Sharon Furlong, Adele Murphy, Barbara Clary, Cindy Roberts, Adam Tunnell, Laura Hill, Teri Dugan, and Jill Carlberg.

Minutes from March Meeting – J. Carlberg, Secretary

Minutes were emailed after the last meeting to members. S. Furlong moved to approve; M. Pannell seconded. Minutes were approved by all with no changes.

Treasurer's Report – M. Pannell, Treasurer

FOIL has a balance of \$15,436.39 in our account. FOIL paid \$166 for our PO box and \$420 for 6 months of the storage unit. We received a donation of \$150 from Connie Lestiko and her husband along with a nice thank you.

Old Business

Book Sale –R. Lehl, Vice President

The cabin is very full. The Montana Academy is leaving us books that we cannot really use for the book sale. If anyone knows someone there, please tell them that we do not need/cannot support their books. We will plan a book sort soon, weather permitting, in the next couple of weeks. The cabin is crowded with books, and we hope will be crowded with all of you on the day of the sort! At the end of the January, a young man has volunteered to help us move books from the cabin to storage. There are a couple of boxes set aside now for the Food Depository. Sharon Furlong will pick it up and deliver it to them. Teri Dugan from the library and A. Tunnell from the Foundation both commented that they receive calls all the time about our book sale. All agreed it would be good to schedule the Fall sale soon; Adele Murphy will look to find the best weekend and report back.

Committee Reports

Flathead County Library Alliance (FCLA) – J. Carlberg

Work focused on the commissioner election and trustee appointment is over for now and the Alliance is looking at focusing on educating our community on our library system now and what it could be in the future. The Steering Committee was formed over a year ago and is considering an event to attract new leadership and other volunteers for this coming year.

Membership – R. Lehl, Vice President

Our annual membership drive is happening now. We hope you will rejoin us for 2023. As a reminder, our membership levels are:

\$25 - Annual single
\$35- Annual family
\$250 - Lifetime

We have two ways for you to join and pay:

- *Online at: <https://www.imagineiffriends.com/join>*
- *By check: Payable to Friends of ImagineIF Libraries; send to P.O. Box 3403, Kalispell, MT 59903*

Homebound Program – M. Pannell

The program has one new patron requesting services. The Homebound Program could use more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver and pick up books and other materials from the library to someone who needs help, please call one of the program's coordinators listed below:

Michele Tohtz, Kalispell Homebound Coordinator, [406.871.1533](tel:406.871.1533)

Marylane Pannell, Kalispell Homebound Coordinator, [406.871.7613](tel:406.871.7613)

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

FOIL is hosting a Staff Appreciation Luncheon at ImagineIF's All Staff Meeting on March 6 at the Kalispell library location. **The Luncheon is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and say “thank you” to ImagineIF's fantastic staff. A sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting. If you did not attend and wish to bring something to the luncheon, please contact Francy Mc Allister at 406-407-0168 or fhmcallister2@gmail.com.**

We will need to have lunch ready at 11:45 AM. Set-up will start at 10 AM. The Library will be closed that day so we will have someone posted at the side entrance to let people in and collect food. The luncheon will be held on the second floor.

ImagineIF Library –T. Dugan, Office Manager

Programming is super busy – lots of new families are coming in. Kalispell added another story time to help cover the increase in attendees. We are back to pre-pandemic levels! The next all staff day will be held on March 6. Staff enjoy having the meetings and opportunities for training on a quarterly rather than yearly basis. In the mornings, they have time to receive CE credit opportunities and they hold break-out sessions in the afternoon. The library staff really appreciate the support they receive from FOIL. The Library is currently trying to team up with the Kalispell Police Department on security training. Overall, the feelings of staff have come a long way in the last year: Everyone is settling in their positions, are hopeful about the future, and feeling strong support from the Friends and the Foundation. Over the last year, they have worked hard to make front and back office pay more equitable. As a result of many actions, the staff feel more connected as a team. There is no current plan to fill the position that Sean Anderson recently vacated. They have used this vacancy to raise compensation in other positions as well as create some savings.

We discussed the supply of gift cards for staff milestones and recognition that FOIL has sponsored. Teri mentioned that they had discussed the formation of a hospitality committee at their last leadership meeting. The idea was to have two of their leaders create the committee and plan celebrations around these milestones. She asked if FOIL would fund something like that. P. Haglund moved to allocate \$300 for staff hospitality for the current calendar year; L. Hill seconded the motion. The group discussed and agreed that we would issue a check with the intent to support the staff celebrations for 2023. Teri agreed that they will keep track of how they spend the money and provide it to FOIL. All approved and were happy to have a tangible way to demonstrate our support of ImagineIF staff.

ImagineIF Foundation – A. Tunnell, Executive Director

In November, the Foundation held their event “Read Between the Wine,” a capital campaign for the new Bigfork location. It was well attended with just under 100 paid attendees (the Foundation comped library staff) and netted about \$25,000!

Highlights included:

- Kathleen Moon of Laughing Horse Lodge catered, and they had fun items like the Mashed Potini Bar.
- 40 of the attendees were new donors.
- Kathleen Moon auctioned a private dinner for \$5000 which was immediately bid on, so she added a second to bring in \$10,000.
- FOIL’s basket sold well. Adam begged all the local restaurants to contribute baskets too and they ended up with 18 different baskets.
- People loved the author/ public speaker event.
- With the earlier issues surrounding the Bigfork building ownership and the pandemic, this event was intended to help kick-off a new awareness of the campaign and move forward. The Foundation is currently at \$1 MM and intends to start construction when they hit \$1.2 MM, which Adam has as a goal to meet by the end of the Summer.

At year-end, the Foundation took a different approach and sent a simple Christmas card out to its donors instead of a “hard” appeal letter. It worked and the fourth quarter giving was tremendous. In addition, the donations were larger (in the \$10,000-\$15,000 range) than they have received in the past at year-end. Recently, Adam brought gift bags to the libraries to help spread cheer. The library is succeeding and doing well. The educational space is so important that everyone knows what is happening. They are planning a golf scramble for Bigfork and other ideas are underway with the Chamber.

The Foundation is looking for Board members. Kalispell and Columbia Falls capital campaigns for new facilities are next in their future. If you are interested, please reach out to Adam at the Foundation (406-314-4082). The Foundation is looking to restart “Lunch and Learns” to introduce new members to ImagineIF. The Foundation is having its Board Retreat on January 18th. Sharon Furlong will represent/attend for the Friends. Last year, there was some confusion at the Greatfish which resulted in the ImagineIF Library Foundation not being able to participate (the Greatfish thought the Foundation and Trustees were one and the same). The Foundation has

decided to rebrand to ensure that they have a distinct identity from the library while retaining elements that demonstrate the link between the two organizations.

New Business

Book Club – Various members

The Club discussed “Quiet,” a book about introversion by Susan Cain at the last meeting. “Personal Librarian” by Maria Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray will be discussed at the next meeting on February 14 at 3:00 PM in the meeting room in Kalispell Library. For the full list of books, visit:

<https://www.imagineiffriendends.com/get-involved>

Spring Event Idea – J. Carlberg

Jill asked if the group would be interested in holding a new event in the Spring to show general support for our libraries and staff, bring members and community together, and have fun. The group discussed and thought it was worth looking into the idea. Pam Haglund, Adele Murphy, Laura Hill, and Sharon Furlong raised their hands to help Jill produce a plan to present to FOIL at our next meeting. Thank you volunteers!

Mark your Calendars:

Next FOIL Meeting: February 16 at noon in the meeting room at ImagineIF Kalispell

Staff Appreciation Lunch – March 6 at ImagineIF Kalispell

ImagineIF Trustees Meeting: January 26 at South Campus Conference Room at 9:00 AM

McAllister adjourned the meeting.

Jill Carlberg, Friends of ImagineIF Libraries, Secretary