

Friends of ImagineIF Libraries
Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2022
ImagineIF Library Kalispell

F. McAllister called the Friends of ImagineIF Libraries (FOIL) meeting to order at 12:00 PM with 18 members present.

Attendees: Francy McAllister, Roxie Lehl, Marylane Pannell, Joan Gates, Bonnie Gardner, Barbara Boorman, Eli Sultz, Patti Young, Michele Tohtz, Susie Burch, Becky Slater, Cindy Roberts, Carolyn Hurst, Jackie Phillips, Vanessa Barrett, Margaret Davis, Ashley Cummins, and Jill Carlberg

Minutes from March Meeting – J. Carlberg, Secretary

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

Treasurer's Report – M. Pannell, Treasurer

FOIL has a balance of \$8773.17 in our account. One new member since March. Francy noted that two donations were made in the form of gift cards to the library by individual donors last month. Library had asked for gift cards to recognize staff for National Library Week; they also use gift cards to recognize service milestones for staff, etc. The library cannot accept cash or checks for this purpose. If you would like to donate, please give directly to Teri Dugan in the ImagineIF Kalispell business office. You will receive a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

Old Business

Membership – R. Lehl, Vice President

Currently, FOIL has 2 new members, bringing our total membership to 91.

Auditor Update – M. Tohtz

Michele and Adele Murphy performed an audit of FOI, working with M. Pannell and J. Gates. Everything looked good. She raised some questions at the meeting:

Is there a tax form that needs to be filled out? V. Barrett responded that there is a form, but as FOIL does not make enough, the form is very simple. M. Pannell added that FOIL does not owe any taxes.

Has the membership increased since we added the ability to join online? While we have had 25 members join and pay via the online service, it is hard to know if overall membership has increased due the addition as we have attrition when people move and cleaned up the member list recently.

FOIL paid processing fees of \$67 for the online services and it is more complicated to track. Is an online option worth having? Can we ask members to pay the transaction fee? J. Carlberg will look into having the donor pay the transaction fee. She reviewed this option earlier and did not think it existed with our existing software, however, V. Barrett thinks that it is. Jill voiced that she believes it is important to keep the online option to continue to attract members and grow our ranks. She also said she would pay the \$67 to cover the

transaction costs to date. Others agreed to keep the option but try to get the transaction fee covered by the donor.

Welcome Brochure – J. Carlberg

No progress has been made on this idea due to work on other library focused initiatives. R. Lehl volunteered to work with Jill on it – Thank you Roxie!

Committee Reports

Homebound Program – J. Carlberg

M. Pannell and M. Tohtz volunteered to co-lead this program, taking over from J. Carlberg. Thank you both for volunteering!

ImagineIF Library –A. Cummins, Executive Director, ImagineIF Kalispell

Ashely Cummins, the new executive director of ImagineIF Libraries joined the meeting. She thanked FOIL for the support provided during National Library Week which helped them supply baskets and coffee to each office. She then asked if there were any questions.

What have you been most impressed with so far? The staff and level of community buy-in.

What's going on in the library right now? At the next Trustees meeting, she will be proposing a major staff transitions to rebalance out management staff and hopefully help certain people with capacity. She would not have usually approached something like this so early in her tenure, however she heard a lot of concern about workload during 1:1s that she held with each member of staff. They are also in the thick of summer program planning.

How is the strategic plan coming along? Right now, they are still planning timeline for it. They want to incorporate community listening sessions and on-line or in-house surveys. S. Burch said she was hopeful that the plan comes from the staff and not a solely top-down initiative from the trustees. Ashley said she feels it is important to have the trustees involved in the process, so they are committed to seeing it through.

B. Boorman commented that it is important that people understand the Summer Reading Programs are funded by the Foundation and Friends—not all commissioners seem to know that. Ashely said she can add signs about who is funding what programs in the library.

Foundation Report – V. Barrett, ImagineIF Library Foundation Board

Adam Tunnell has been announced as the new executive director of the ImagineIF Foundation and he will start on May 2. A press release has been issued on his appointment. Adam is from Bigfork and had four kids. He became a library lover by taking kids to library. He is very invested in Bigfork campaign and is a member of the Foundation Board. He also brings experience in non-profits, most recently as manager of Habitat for Humanity Re-Store.

The Bigfork campaign is still a bit stalled on the issue of who will own the building. The Foundation has a meeting with Commissioners in the next month to discuss

The Foundation issues an email newsletter with a lot of good information. If you are interested in receiving it, you can sign-up at the bottom of the Foundation's website.

New Business

Flathead County Library Alliance – J. Carlberg and S. Burch

The Alliance is focused on the upcoming trustee appointment with Connie Leistiko's term ending on June 30. An email was sent to all Friends earlier about an event tonight to promote trusteeship. The group is also looking to the race for a new commissioner and is planning to host a panel to hear directly from Commissioner candidates on the topic of libraries before the primaries. A message will come out on the date and time. The FCLA has issued a questionnaire to each candidate. In both cases, it is vital that we support candidates for these roles who are ardent supporters of public libraries and their mission and stalwart defenders of the constitution and good governance.

Susie noted that the County Commissioners do three things in relation to the library: Approve the budget; provide facilities; and appoint trustees. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:45-9:00 AM, you can make your voice heard by speaking at the County Commissioner meetings.

Susie and Charlotte Housel spoke at Buffalo Hills Villa last week. Over 30 people attended and there was enthusiasm to take a bus to the courthouse and speak up for ImagineIF!

Book Sale –

The group discussed holding our annual book sale and the possibility of holding a Spring and Fall one this year. We have not held one for going on three years and concern was expressed that the books we have collected are getting old. J. Carlberg motioned to hold a book sale in the Spring; J. Gates seconded. All approved.

The group centered on a two-day sale on June 10-11. Roxie will contact Adele and come back to the group with any concerns or issues.

M. Pannell motioned to get new signs created; C. Hurst seconded. All approved.

V. Barrett mentioned that Glacier Bank offers free radio ads and is good about finding volunteers. She will contact them.

Book Club –

The Club meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 3 pm. The next meeting book is "Fruit of the Drunken Tree" by Ingrid Rojas Contreras. Check out our Web site to see the full schedule:

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

Mark your Calendars

Next FOIL Meeting: May 19, 2022, at noon in the meeting room at ImagineIF Kalispell.

ImagineIF Trustees Meeting: April 28, 2022, at 9:00 AM in the meeting room at ImagineIF Kalispell.

F. McAllister adjourned the meeting.

Jill Carlberg, Friends of ImagineIF Libraries, Secretary