

Friends of ImagineIF Libraries  
Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2022  
ImagineIF Library Kalispell

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

**Attendees:** Roxie Lehl, Jill Carlberg, Janice Kalvig, Marylane Pannell, Joan Gates, Bonnie Gardner, Barbara Boorman, Sean Anderson, Sharon Furlong, Kathy Britton, Charlene Hazlett, and Joseph Biby.

**Minutes from January Meeting – J. Carlberg, Secretary**

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

**Treasurer’s Report – M. Pannell, Treasurer**

FOIL has a balance of \$8,837 in our account. FOIL recently paid \$38.40 to Insty Print and made a donation of \$103.18 (the odd amount was to cover the processing charge) to Humanities Montana, making up for the past two years when a donation was not made. Storage unit bill should be coming up.

**Old Business**

**Membership – R. Lehl, Vice President**

Currently, FOIL as about 90 members.

**Auditor Update – Adele Murphy and Michele Tohtz**

Postponed as planned presenters were not in attendance. Will update at next meeting.

**Welcome Brochure – J. Carlberg**

No progress has been made on this idea due to work on other library focused initiatives.

**Committee Reports**

**Homebound Program – J. Carlberg**

Asking for a volunteer to be the new coordinator for Kalispell. Connects volunteers with homebound patrons to pick-up/drop-off materials from the Kalispell Library to their home. Does not require daily/weekly hours but someone to address when a new patron requests service or volunteer raises their hand.

**Bigfork Rotary Club Book Sale – R. Lehl**

Rotary Club held a one-day used book sale to benefit the new Bigfork Library. The event was a success, raising \$6,000. It was held at the new library building, was set-up well, had great signage, and was well attended. We lent them our blue barrels to collect book donations. Some ideas for FOIL’s next sale: They had a “free” table for books and magazines that were too worn or beat up to sell and had a \$5 book table.



**Foundation Report – S. Furlong, FOIL Representative, ImagineIF Library Foundation Board**

The Foundation Board meeting was held the day before and was the first meeting without Charlotte. Vanessa Barrett ran the meeting and did a good job. They discussed the recent Bigfork Book Sale and are looking forward to FOIL resuming their sale. The Personnel Committee is down to two candidates for the new executive director position. The two candidates attended to meet everyone. Recommendation will be made by the end of week and an announcement will be made thereafter. The Foundation is tracking to budget. Donations continue to come in, but they are not as strong as previously, likely a result of the recent events with the Trustee Board. The Annual Appeal has been sent. Two actions were approved:

- Change in the bylaws to change the Library Director position on the board from a voting to a non-voting member.
- A new grant making policy to underscore what funding should come from the Foundation vs. other sources, i.e., publicly funded categories such as operating funds, certain services, and programs.

**ImagineIF Library –S. Anderson, Senior Librarian, ImagineIF Kalispell**

The new Library Director, Ashley Cummins, was scheduled to attend this FOIL meeting but could not make the meeting due to sickness.

Ashley is great with a busy schedule right now. She was on the job for three days and then attended the full day Trustee Board Retreat. She is a trusted presence with staff already and wants to continue the success of ImagineIF. Her immediate priorities is on getting to know the staff and their work.

The Library is making some changes to its fiction collection and taking away the genres and putting the collection in alphabetical order. Patrons have asked for this change, finding the genre categorization confusing. They are planning to make this change on Sunday the 27 and an email was sent out to FOIL members to ask for volunteers.

Budget meeting was yesterday, March 16. It was a productive and the main message from the County is “hold the line.” They did hear that the County was willing to be more flexible with sidebar requests throughout the year to support one time injections. A. Cummins asked for a 5% increase on the operating budget to cover the COLA increase for staff and a moderate increase to the materials budget and other line items tied closely to inflationary items (maintenance, fuel). The Finance Committee agreed.

**New Business**

**Flathead County Library Alliance - Jill**

The Alliance has been actively working since the launch of its Website and initial messaging. We encourage FOIL members to sign-up as members of the Alliance, too. We currently have about 800 advocates onboard and our short-term goal is 2500. Recently, we have refined our mission, vision, and first-year goals and will be communicating those shortly. The Steering Committee just formed five sub-committees to support the mission and goals. These committees are:

- Funding
- Networking

- Research
- Communications
- Events

Please contact one of the Alliance Steering Committee members if you are interested in being an active volunteer on one of the committees. Steering Committee members are Susie Burch, Laurel Ekern, Stu Wilson, Laura Bean, Valeri McGarvey, and Jill Carlberg.

***Book Club – C. Hazlett***

Four new people have been coming to the meeting and the meetings are lively and interesting. The Club is meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 3 pm. The next meeting book is “The Land of Lost Borders” and is about the silk road. At this meeting, they will also be forming the book list for the next year. Check out our Web site to see the full schedule:

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

**Mark your Calendars**

**Next FOIL Meeting:** April 21, 2022, at noon in the meeting room at ImagineIF Kalispell.

R. Lehl adjourned the meeting.

Jill Carlberg, Friends of ImagineIF Libraries, Secretary