

*Approved 10/20/2022*  
FRIENDS OF EPLS KEYSTONE  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 15, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
EPLS Keystone Branch

Members Present

Kathy Burrer; Sylvia Hack; Anita Jones; Cindy Klinec; Sandra McElwain; Marilyn Offenber; Wendi Zwaduk

CALL TO ORDER

Wendi Zwaduk, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2022 Meeting – Mary Karleskint, Secretary

Kathy Burrer made a motion to approve the August 18, 2022 minutes. Sylvia Hack seconded the motion. Vote on the Motion: Unanimous Approval.

REPORTS

President's Report – Wendi Zwaduk

Christmas Tree Lighting - Date has been set for Dec 1, 2022 to work with programming already happening that day at the library (Elf Party). There is a mention of the Christmas Tree lighting in the most recent flyer for the Library.

Imagination Library Luncheon - Wendi attended the Imagination Library Luncheon with Fran DeWine and presented by EPLS and the Community Foundation of Lorain County. Wendi has inquired on getting the Friends of EPLS Keystone added to their list of charitable groups so folks can give to the group on Sept 15th for the annual Connect to a Cause (today). During the luncheon, the presenters talked about how much early intervention and reading are helping preschoolers in Lorain County. 10,000 children now receive books in our county. We, through EPLS, help get children signed up for this fantastic program – Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Treasurer's Report – Wendi Zwaduk

Wendi reported in Iris' absence. The treasury balance as of August 15 is \$29,359.90.

Membership Report – Kathy Burrer

Kathy reported that (at this time) there is no change in the membership numbers.

Sunshine Committee Report

Linda was absent. A card was sent to Marianne Sommerfelt who was in the hospital and a card will be sent to Mary Karleskint due to her father being in the hospital.

EPLS Director's Report

There was no one from EPLS at the meeting. Wendi reported that she spoke with Jenn Starkey about getting signs directing people to the library put up around town. The Village confirmed we are allowed to put signs up. The cost is estimated at \$80 per sign and 5 are planned. If EPLS agrees to move forward and pay for the signs the Friends may contribute if needed. Frank Szuch will order lanyards for the Friends board members if Jenn Starkey approves.

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OLD BUSINESS

Backpack Giveaway Sept 1, 2022 – Wendi reported on the success of the backpack giveaway with the following highlights:

- We had 73 entries over the course of 23 days (Aug 9 – 31)
- By comparison, last year we had 2 baskets, one for adults and one for students. For the 16 days the entries were open last year, there were 68 entries overall, with 32 being in the adult basket bucket and 36 in the School Supply basket bucket.)
- The two winners were Kalynn Borer and Brent Meadows – both were super excited to win.

Pros:

- People enjoyed the display and loved the idea that we were giving away school supplies.
- The mention in the Rural Urban helped, so did the ones on Facebook in the various groups as well as on our page.
- The young lady who won needed many of the items in the bag, so it was a hit.
- People were grateful for the chance to win as there is need in the district for such items.
- It got people into the library to check out items and visit the building, even if they didn't enter.
- Patrons were happy to see this giveaway again (You're doing this again? Great! We look forward to this giveaway.). Many felt there is a need for this in the community because we have many families who need this kind of help.

Cons:

- Many parents in Keystone bought via the school portal and didn't need school supplies.
- Others simply already had school supplies because they considered this too late and didn't enter.
- Some wanted to wait to enter to give children who needed the supplies a chance instead of their children who already had supplies. They felt others might better benefit from the giveaway and hoped the others might win.
- Some entered but wanted to donate the supplies to the school/teachers. Patrons were told if they did enter and were considering giving the prize to the school, they're well within their right to do so and encouraged if that's what they'd like to do. Everyone benefits that way.

Suggestion:

- Do this giveaway sooner, like in July. Buy the school supplies in June and do the giveaway in July, so it's before the school supply season starts and there are more who might need the supplies entering. Have the giveaway end a couple weeks before school starts so if someone wins, they aren't double buying or they aren't waiting/hoping to win and don't, which leaves them stranded.
- Keep in mind, we don't just service the Keystone district and Keystone only children. Many of our younger patrons aren't just from the area and come in via other family members – so buying through the portal doesn't affect everyone.

Conclusion:

This giveaway more than doubled in entries for the children's baskets. Parents and young patrons alike enjoyed the giveaway. We might consider doing this earlier in the year (July), but having the same amount of backpacks (2). There is a need in the community for help of this sort and it would be good to have these out and won before the biggest part of school supply buying season is in full swing.

Book Collection and Sorting – Wendi Zwaduk

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Wendi reported that as of September 12, 2022, there are 5,177 books in storage.

- Wendi put an article in the Rural Urban to let people know we are still collecting donations. She will be adding more posts to Facebook saying the same thing.

2022 Book Sale (November 14-16 Set Up; November 17-20 Sale) – Wendi Zwaduk

Wendi set up with Book Sale Finder our ad for the book sale and updated the information. The bill will be sent after our sale for us to pay in November. It brings in a lot of scanner people and some book sellers.

Advertisement for the Keystone Branch Library – Friends' Facebook Page – Wendi Zwaduk

Wendi continues to post a lot of information on Facebook regarding donations for the book sale, the backpack giveaway and other branch activities, encouraging people to visit the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Books Sale Committee

We need to start thinking about the Book Sale committee. Most likely the book sorting crew including Kathy, Paula, Wendi and Cindy. We will need to start lining up help for moving tables/books to the gym.

Christmas Tree Lighting Committee

Anita graciously volunteered to be in charge of putting up the lights and will plan to do so the last week of November. The tree lighting ceremony will take place on December 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Burrer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Wendi Zwaduk seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Unanimous Approval. Wendi Zwaduk, President, adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Sandra McElwain, 10/03/2022