

**FRIENDS OF THE FISKE FREE LIBRARY
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: 11/5/25

LOCATION: FISKE FREE LIBRARY

ATTENDANCE:

**Mike Grace, Librarian
Renee Mayerr, President
John Cloutier, vice President
Lynsey Lacourse, Treasure
Lisa Gosselin, Secretary**

MEMBERS/GUESTS

**Mark White
Marty Davis
Elizabeth Cram**

Renee called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm, presenting those in attendance with tonight's agenda and the minutes of our last meeting on October 3rd at 5:16. No amendments or corrections to the minutes were reported.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's report by Lynsey Lacourse

Balance on Hand as of 11/5/25 \$15,981.58

Credits:

Swipe Transfer	\$ 48.25	
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Interest	\$.40	
Check (Donation)	<u>\$ 30.00</u>	
Total	\$126.90	

Debits (Pending)

Checks from CSB	\$ 28.90	
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Lynsey reports that she ordered checks from our CSB account, totaling \$28.90 which will debit from our acct once they are shipped. This amount is not reflected in our Balance on Hand. The adjusted Balance will be \$15,952.68.

2.CHILI COOK OFF RECAP

Renee noted that we spent less than 1\$00.00 for the supplies needed to make our chili for the cook off. Everything else was donated.

Because it was such a success and fun, team building exercise, we decided to enroll in the Chili Cook Off next year. The shift schedule was sufficient for the # of people we could serve and the space we had available. Our shifts were 9:30 - 11:00, 11:00 - 1:00 and 1:00 - 3:30, with 3 people per shift.

Overall we felt it was a great way to remind our community of the Friends organization. A couple of themes referencing Books were discussed:

- 1. Chili (Charlie) and the chocolate factory Highlighting a Chocolate (Moles) flavored Chili.**
- 2. Fahrenheit 451 and make a HOT chili.**

Chili and the Chocolate Factory was decided to be the theme next year.

Marty suggested we start to introduce hints about our chili, as a way of building an advertising campaign.

3 .PIE SALE 11/25/25

We have a list of people who offered to bake for the pie and bake sale on November 25. Elizabeth will call them and post a request for pie bakers to post in Library. All baked goods are homemade.

Lynsey asked if we should have a sign up wizard on the Friend's website. However, it was decided to just rely upon phone calls rather than email for a more personal touch. Elizabeth was reminded to ask if she needs help with making phone calls. It was decided that any leftovers will go to Soup Kitchen and Lynsey will investigate the process of this.

Renee made an advertising flyer for our approval and as a committee, we agreed to be great with some minor changes, as Marty suggested we embellish the pie to stand out more. We will post them in city buildings, grocery stores, local schools, other municipal libraries. Tremont House of Pizza, CSB and the other banks in town, the Visitors Center, Bourdons SR Center, and the American Legion. Renee is posting on "Whats Up Claremont", our Facebook Page and on the City Page.

4. Facebook Page for Friends of the Fiske Free Library

Renee suggested that it's time to create a FFFL FB Page. On such a page we can offer membership options, report our news and post pictures of activities. Through social media, we can give a face and name to the Friends organization. Renee has offered to act as administrator. Elizabeth recommended that we make it a NO COMMENT site. Just offer news. This was agreed upon by all in attendance. Marty asked if we can provide a link to the FB Page from our website. Renee will connect with Josh who is still in CA taking care of his Dad. Renee will talk to Josh about naming a second administrator of the Friends website because we have not been able to modify the website while he's been away. In the meantime Renee, will set up the FaceBook page.

5. December fundraising Event

Pictures with Santa or the Grinch was discussed at the last meeting and Elizabeth was checking on the "Real Santa's" availability for Saturday December 13th. Renee reported that Runnings is having Pictures with Santa for families and pets on the same day. She also noted that NIMMA, the Mixed Martial Arts Center on North St had pictures last year but they have not posted anything for this year as yet.

Elizabeth announced the Fiske will be running its own event with The Real Santa, including a story time with the Night Before Christmas and photos opportunity on Saturday 12/13 11:00 am-1:00 pm No assistance or funding needed from the Friends. The Friends will advertise this on our FB Page and put it in our flier as well.

The idea of a Wreath sale fundraiser will be tabled for this year and considered when we have a strategic planning session this January when we can plan out our schedule for the year as well as determine additional ways in which we can support the FFL in 2026.

6. Memorandum of understanding

Renee gave us all a copy of a sample document which works in conjunction with our constitution, and describes what the Fiske Free Library can expect from the Friends of the Fiske Free Library organization and visa versa. The document was reviewed by all in attendance and several changes were discussed

One item that came up was the one that said the Library agrees to provide staff support to the Friends as needed, and this was changed in the document to read “provide meeting space outside of Library hours as staffing allows” rather than providing staff.

Another discussion about the statement about the Library providing space for book storage and book sorting for sales is being written as :the FFFL will coordinate book collection and sorting for book sales with the Library Director.

Yet another discussion developed around the statement of monies raised by the FFFL needed to be more clearly stated and defined and Renee was going to put together these stated changes in the document along with a term of expiration. This will be reviewed by the Librarian before the next meeting and a final document will be constructed for our discussion and approval at our December meeting.

7. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Event

This national program is working here in Claremont and this year, 11 children have qualified for recognition. The ceremony will be held at the FFL on Thursday, November 13 at 4:30 pm. Kids will receive a medal, books and celebration, with a certificate, and a lollipop bouquet. Martha, the children’s librarian, has organized this program and Friends are urged to attend to support our young readers.

Renee and Lynsey are planning a time to renew the 501 C-3 status filing..

NEW BUSINESS:

1. December agenda will include

***Blind Date with a book event in February**

***Projected Budget and Strategic Planning meeting in January to discuss Fundraising, Membership Drives, Events in 2026, Spending Plans and Projects, and long term goals.**

2. Renee asked if we would consider sending out a year in review

Thank You postcard to our membership. Lots of discussion regarding cost of mailing vs the opportunity to communicate our progress this year to the membership, might prompt an end of year donation. The group allowed Renee to craft a letter/note to our membership for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa R, Gosselin, Secretary FFFL