Friends of the Greene County Library, Inc.
Minutes of March 11, 2015
Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Board members Kathy Ladika, Betsy Martin, Marissa Holmes, Mary Jo Sopelak, guest June Battaile, and Greene County Library Branch Manager Ginny Reese.

**Library Landscaping:** June Battaile has been a key volunteer, managing the landscaping around the library. She led the discussion on the condition of the bushes and needs for pruning, hauling, weeding, and mulching. Since July 2014, $400 had been approved and none of that had been spent since the mulch had been donated and volunteer labor had been used for weeding and mulching.

The Abelia bushes need two prunings/year – one now and one in early July. A decision to remove the failing Compact Holly was made, but plans for replacement bushes that will stay small and not spread will be determined at a later date since shrubbery is best planted in the autumn. Liriope pruning is not urgent, but will need to be planned at a later date. In order to make the reading garden more welcoming, the gate will be removed.

As a follow-up, after the meeting an estimate was received and approved from Swift Run Lawn and Landscape for $125 to trim the Abelia bushes and haul away the debris (including cleaning under and around them) and $225 to remove the Compact Holly and haul away (including leaving as much dirt in holes and cleaning any debris from the sidewalk). For future reference, the approximate cost for trimming the Liriope, clean-up, and hauling will be $200.

**Treasurer's Report:** There is a balance of $2828.69 in the Friends' checking account. Recent expenditures were in support of the Bibliophiles ($8.35), Film Night ($5.42), cake for the Festival of the Book program ($55), and the Open Mic Night ($92.62). A total of $60 in donations had been received. The Treasurer filed the IRS 990N Form, the next filing is due prior to April 15, 2016.

Per the bylaws and IRS reporting, the calendar year and fiscal year coincide. To facilitate financial tracking, it was agreed that during the yearly January meeting the budgets for ongoing recurring events and ongoing groups would be approved. The following budgets for the remainder of 2015 were approved, but additional spending can be authorized by board vote if the need arises: $50 Bibliophiles, $65 for Rapunzels, $50 for Egg Hunt for Read and Rhyme and Storybook Beat, $500 Summer Reading Program, and $200 for the garden June Battaile.
**Festival of the Book:** As part of the Festival of the Book, on Friday evening, March 20, 2015 a very popular (standing-room-only) program was held at the Greene County Library from 7 to 8 pm followed by Q&A, book signing, and refreshments. Ginny Reese introduced Bill Henry, from the Blue Ridge Heritage Project and David Bearinger of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities introduced the Festival of the Book as a whole and the authors. The speakers were Sue Eisenfeld, author of “Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal” and Brian King, author of “The Appalachian Trail: Celebrating America’s Hiking Trail.”

**Author Event:** A.B. Westrick, an author from the Richmond, VA area, will be giving a presentation followed by Q&A and refreshments at 7 pm Friday evening April 17, 2015. Her book “Brotherhood” was winner of the Jefferson Cup Award, among others. The book is set near Richmond, VA right after the end of the Civil War. As part of the curriculum, many area middle school children have read the book. In support of this event, the Friends group authorized on Nov. 21, 2014 a $300 expenditure. At the March 11, 2015 meeting an additional $25 was approved for travel expenses, $50 for purchase of supplemental paperback copies of the book, and $30 for event refreshments.

**Open Mic Night:** The Teen Advisory Board, mentored by Michelle Ehrich, had an extremely successful third annual Open Mic Night on Friday, February 20. Approximately a hundred people were in attendance to enjoy about fifteen different acts including a variety of music, dance, juggling, and a martial arts demonstration.

**Monthly Film Night:** The monthly film is on the 2nd Friday of each month. The scheduled March film is “The Namesake,” to coordinate with that being The Big Read book as well. The April film is a documentary “The Stories We Tell.” The March film is “The Lunchbox,” a romantic comedy set in India released in 2013.

**Regional Friends of the Library Anniversary:** The 50th anniversary celebration of the regional Friends of the Library (current president Fran Feigert), will be held on Sat., May 2 in Lee Park from 2-4 pm. There is an opportunity for this Friends’ group to participate with a table highlighting our supporting local role. Volunteers were going to check their schedules and no commitment to participate could be made at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday in May (May 13, 2015) at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Sopelak
Friends of the Greene County Library, Inc.