

Friends of Upper Dublin Public Library
Board Meeting
Upper Dublin Library Conference Room
Thursday, March 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Friends of UDPL was called to order at 1:05 PM by Robert Stutz.

Board Members Present: Bryan Gillespie, Dick Haggard, Jo-Ann Hunt, Karen Preston, Jan Frohner, and Cathy Murphy. Those absent were Joan Chinitz, Jerry Caplan and Connie Sugarbread.

Others from Library Staff and Friends: Cheri Fiory, Library Director; Linda Walker. Andrea Merrick, on behalf of the Library Board.

Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting. Approved as issued by Bryan Gillespie, on behalf of Secretary, Joan Chinitz.

Robert noted that Joan is moving to Cathedral Village, and although she will still attend our meetings, we will need a new Secretary since she cannot serve in that capacity once she moves.

Treasurer's Report (Jo-Ann Hunt, Treasurer) : Jo-Ann gave her report for February 2018. Currently, the Friends' total balance on hand is \$96,242 as of the end of February. Jo-Ann noted that the Philomena Sciarra memorial has been active, with \$1,028. in donations in her memory thus far. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Jan reported that the membership total is currently 277. This represents 54 new members, and 212 responses from existing members. Jo-Ann's membership report provided updated comparison data for the results of this year and last year's membership mailing. For 2017-18, there have been 277 renewals versus 286 for the full 2016-17 year. Donations total \$15,428.57 resulting from this year's drive, versus \$15,088.25 last year. Cheri noted that we got a 74% return on our expenses for this mailing. Discussion about possibly revising our mailing strategy since we sent letters to the same "pool" of library users for the past two years.

Old Business

Cheri advised that the North Hills Little Free Library is expected to be moved, and she will request township assistance for this move once the weather improves. Cheri noted that Klosterman location needs a 'charter' in order to be a numbered Little Free Library. Cheri and Karen will address this, and Karen will determine whether Rep. Murt's LFL is mapped as well.

Cheri also noted that Monte Carlo night is scheduled for upcoming Saturday night, and she will be there with Robert, Cathy, and Lauren to assist.

Cheri requested a volunteer to serve on the Volunteer of the Year Award committee, and Bryan agreed to assist.

With regard to fundraising issues, Jan and Robert noted that thank you notes were sent to all donors, and responders who donated \$100 or more received a second thank you note signed by Robert. Richard also noted that we no longer have ALMO (mail processing equipment) access and we will need a new source to meet those needs next year. Use of this equipment significantly reduced the time needed to prepare the large volume of envelopes used for our annual appeal letters. We will need to address this issue before next year's appeal to assure we can efficiently complete this large project.

Cheri advised that Ambler Library is going to expand, primarily to assure ADA compliance. This will occur during 2019, and it was noted that they will likely be engaged in fundraising for that renovation.

New Business

Bryan requested that we consider speakerphone/teleconference participation for future meetings as needed. Cheri said she can arrange for this, including providing a dial in number if a larger number of members cannot be present.

Richard notes that board members will be elected at the upcoming April 19 Annual Meeting. Thus, we will need to have a quorum based on our membership level of 277 "Friends" in order to conduct this election process. Additionally, prior to the meeting we need a list of nominees before the annual meeting, and should confirm continued participation of current members.

Director's Report: Cheri advised that there is a free Trustee Workshop on Saturday 4/21 at Montgomery County Community College, from 8:30-1PM. We are welcome to attend.

Cheri will provide a short update about the new building at the April Annual Meeting. Cheri also noted that she and Linda Walker will be touring a building in Reading, PA, that provides work-sites for local artists and writers. They hope to gain information that may be useful for the 520 Virginia Drive space.

There was a discussion about possibility of offering a "520 Virginia Drive building tour" to the general members of the Friends, perhaps in connection with the annual "Thank you" event we host for this donor group. Some suggested that we consider having such an event in May.

Cheri provided an update on the status of the library move. Steering Committee has completed its work and they are producing a formal document for review by the Commissioners. Cheri also advised that there were 1,260 responses to the library survey, reflecting a broad range of ideas and opinions. Further community

engagement activities are also planned. Next steps include meeting with contractors.

Cheri advised that our county-wide author event has sold 450 tickets so far; she is aiming for 1,000. The author event at the Ambler Theater on 4/10 is a fundraiser, and has already sold 45+ tickets.

Cheri discussed fundraising meeting, and Andrea asked what strategies are being considered, e.g., multiple source approach that includes capital grants as well as specific program support. Cheri advised that an outside consultant will be brought on to provide informed advice on strategy, timeline, sources, and best methods to "pitch" the project.

Cheri advised that selectee for the Library Board Vacancy will be announced at the upcoming Commissioners Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30PM.

Next Meetings: The next meeting of the Friends Board will be on Thursday, April 19 at 11:00am, in the township meeting room. This is the annual meeting and it will be followed by lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Murphy, for Joan Chinitz, Secretary