

Friends of Upper Dublin Public Library
Annual Meeting
Upper Dublin Township Building Meeting Room
Thursday, April 4, 2019

The annual meeting was called to order at the scheduled and publicized time, 11:05AM, by Board President, Robert Stutz. A quorum of more than 30 Friends (over 10% of our membership) was achieved and business progressed.

Board Members Present: The following members of the current Friends Board were present: Dick Haggard, Jan Frohner, Karen Preston, Bryan Gillespie, Cathy Murphy, Connie Sugarbread and Robert Stutz. Robert noted that Jo-Ann Hunt, the Board Treasurer, was unable to attend this meeting.

Others Present from Library Staff and Friends: Cheri Fiory, Library Director; Wendy Rader and Suanne Strauss, from the Township Library Board. Other Friends, guests and volunteers present included former Friends Board member Joan Chinitz, Township Commissioner Gary Scarpello, and candidate for the 2019/20 Friends Board, Jules Mermelstein. Following the opening welcome and the self-introductions of all present, Robert led the meeting through the stated agenda.

Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting: The minutes for the previous monthly meeting were sent to Friends Board members prior to this meeting. Copies were available for attendees to review. The March minutes were approved as prepared.

Treasurer's Report: Robert provided a review of the Friends income/expenses through 2019 year-to-date. He provided information from a thorough report prepared by Jo-Ann Hunt. This report included a detailed summary of Income and Expenses for the years 2013 through 2019 to date. In addition, Jo-Ann's report set forth the annual Friends budgets for each of those years. The report listed the numerous, varied projects undertaken and supported by the Friends from 2013 to 2019. Projects funded by the Friends this year included 227

Adult Programs and a Summer Reading program with approximately 1,000 children/teens participating. The Friends also continued to fund the very popular "Free Passes" program that permits free entry to such locations as Elmwood Park Zoo, the National Liberty Museum, the African American Museum and many others.

Robert noted that the Friends' budget for this year is \$41,335.82. He also explained that, as reflected in the reports, the Friends budget has fluctuated over the years. Robert is confident that the Friends will spend a significant portion of the available Friends funds in the upcoming year. The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted. A copy of the handouts are attached to these minutes. Robert also acknowledged Jo-Ann's continued dedication to her work as Treasurer, and thanked her for handling these duties again this year.

Membership: Jan Frohner, Membership Chair, reported that the membership of the UDPL Friends currently stands at a total of 272 (6 less than last year). She reviewed data from the Friends latest membership drive, noting that 89% of Friends members renewed this year, a very favorable response rate. Jan also reported that the annual "Thank You" event in 2018 was a wine/cheese party that included a tour of the building where the library will be relocating, 520 Virginia Drive. She noted that there will be a similar "Thank You" event in June 2019, and the Friends Board plans to continue this tradition of recognizing donors.

In response to a question from an attendee, Jan advised that our annual Friends membership drive is done both by regular mail and by email, if we have an email address on file. Providing an email is optional, and some members choose not to provide their emails. Cheri noted that e-blasts notices are sent out during our annual membership drive. In addition, there is an online option to join the Friends, using PayPal. An attendee suggested that we offer members an opportunity to clearly state if they have a preference for email.

Nomination and Election of 2019/2020 Board Members: Robert announced the slate of nominees for election at this meeting, and it includes

all those currently on the Board. Additional nominees for the Friends Board for the upcoming year are Jules Mermelstein and Susan Tofani. Robert expressed his support for all candidates, including the two new proposed members. Robert called for the election. All 10 nominees were unanimously elected by those present.

UDPL Township Board Report: As a member of the Library Board and the liaison with the Friends Board, Cathy Murphy provided a brief summary of the latest Library Board meeting. That meeting agenda included an update from the Library Director, Cheri Fiory, who reported on the status of the proposed relocation to 520 Virginia Drive. An attendee asked about the respective duties of the Friends Board and the Library Board. The three Library Board members in attendance at this annual meeting (Suanne Strauss, Wendy Rader and Cathy Murphy), along with Robert, explained the duties of the two different Library Boards. Robert also noted that the Friends Board performs the library fundraising activities, as it is a 501(c)(3) Board. Suanne noted that the Library Board operates under State requirements and service as an advisory committee to the Board of Commissioners. An attendee suggested that the Friends Board consider holding at least some meetings in the evening, to permit those who work during the day an opportunity to attend. Robert agreed to raise the varying aspects of this issue with the Friends Board soon.

Dick Haggard also noted that a significant contributor to the funds raised by the Friends are monies generated by the ongoing used book sales. These sales bring in about \$1,000/month. Linda Walker and a small crew conducts the ongoing work necessary to make the book sales so successful. This is a considerable job, especially in light of the need to manage a steady flow of used (and sometimes unusable) incoming book donations. Linda also oversees each of the "Little Free Library" sites around Upper Dublin, where she places used books as needed to keep these sites reliable sources. The Friends Board thanks Linda for her ongoing efforts to sustain both the book sales and the Little Free Libraries.

Old Business; Director's Report: Cheri provided an update of the latest Fundraising sub-committee activities. A group comprised of some UD Library Board members, Friends Board members and other Friends are currently working with Cheri to consider best options for fundraising strategies related to the library relocation. It is estimated that \$10.9 million is needed to upgrade and transform the building located at 520 Virginia Drive to accommodate the UD Public Library. One of the results of a feasibility study recently conducted by an independent consulting firm (Fairmount Ventures), is their finding that it would be reasonable to expect to raise approximately \$2 million over 3 years. In addition, it was noted that the Library applied for and was awarded a significant State of PA Keystone Grant that will be used for renovations to the building. Other fundraising strategies will continue to be explored, including possibly establishing a Library Foundation. Cheri noted that these fundraising activities will be necessary to achieve and sustain the vision of our Library as a provider of varied community services.

In addition, Cheri introduced the architects who are developing a plan for the 520 Virginia Drive renovations. Through presentations by Amy Walter and Mike O'Rourke, of GKO Architects, the attendees learned of the proposed renovations for 520 Virginia Drive. Based on feedback the Library has received from the community over the years (in surveys, e.g.), as well as the results of other studies over the years, the architects prepared proposed renovations that will address the evolving needs of our library. The architects provided a 3D "walk through" of the new building, explaining their proposals and highlighting the improvements that will create not only a library, but a community center. The presenters also advised that the building has potential for rentable space, such as the auditorium and a cafe.

An attendee questioned whether there will be a children's play area. Cheri and Amy said yes, and noted that the new space will double the children's area located on the first floor, including a significantly larger room for the children's programs. Another attendee asked whether the quiet newspaper/magazine room will be included in the new

design. Cheri said yes, there will be a quiet reading room included in the design, and they are also considering moving the magazines to make them more accessible for use in other locations of the library. Cheri also explained in response to a question that the renovations will take into account any needed ADA compliance. In response to questions about the square footage, the architects advised that the children's area could be approximately 7,700 SF and the proposed total area for library usage is approximately 30,000 SF.

Another attendee asked about "maker space" and Cheri advised that the area labelled "create" in the proposed plans will be the most innovative area. In this area there will be STEM programs space, 3D printers, and space for other "maker" programs the library has increasingly offered to patrons. Cheri concluded by encouraging the group to watch the Library's Website and for future emails on the new location. She also encouraged everyone to visit UDPL.ORG for ongoing information. Further information about the new library will be shared with the community at large as the process continues.

Next Meeting: The next Friends' Board Meeting will be on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 1:00pm in the Library meeting room. As always, the public is welcome to attend. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05pm. All present were invited to attend the township luncheon for library volunteers in the adjacent room, at which event Cheri would be offering further remarks and presenting the Annual Volunteer Awards.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Murphy,
Secretary