

The Friends of Upper Dublin Public Library

**Monthly Meeting of Friends Board Members
Virtual meeting conducted using Zoom
March 11, 2021**

Name	Present in Person	Not Present	Present by Remote Communication
Friends Board Members			
Robert Stutz, President			x
Richard Haggard, V. President			x
Jo-Ann Hunt, Treasurer			x
Jan Frohner, Membership Chair			x
Cathy Murphy, Secretary			x
Alicia Fortunato			x
Bryan Gillespie			x
Sunny Gross			x
Jules Mermelstein		x	
Karen Preston			x
Susan Tofani			x
Cheri Fiory, Library Director (nonvoting member)			x

Others Present from Library Staff and others in virtual attendance: Suanne Strauss.

A meeting at which a quorum was present was held and called to order at 1:04pm.

Additions to the Agenda: The Friends will consider two additional matters at this meeting: the Jewelry Sale and plans for National Library Week.

Minutes Approval for the February 2021 monthly meeting: The Minutes of the February 2021 meeting were provided to the Friends Board members. On motion, the minutes were unanimously approved without changes. A copy of the final minutes will be forwarded to Karen Preston and Connie Pigliacelli for posting and filing.

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Treasurer's Report and Membership Report: Jo-Ann Hunt reviewed the Treasurer's report, and she described the expenses and income for the preceding month. Total income for the month was \$85.98 resulting from the Amazon Smile program. The only expense for the month was \$188.94 used to support Children's Programs. In her review of the Capital Campaign, Jo-Ann noted that \$100,000 was transferred to Upper Dublin Township consistent with the Board's approval in our last meeting. In response to questions regarding the Capital Campaign progress, Jo-Ann subsequently provided additional information to the Board with more details, specifically, how the Gnessin pledged donation is collected. Those donated funds were used to purchase securities (listed on her report as "Seelaus (Children's Fund)") and she explained that this activity therefore reduced the amount of "pledged" contributions. Jo-Ann advised that, as of 3/16/2021, the combined "grand total" of donations, including pledges and the Children's Fund, is now \$671,465.53. Thus, the Capital Campaign is continuing to make substantial progress toward the long term fundraising goals.

Membership Update: Jan advised that no new members joined the Friends in the past month.

Old Business

New Library and related updates: Cheri Fiory provided updates on operations of the library post-move to Virginia Drive, and as the Covid pandemic continues. The library is now open 36 hours/week. There were more "inside" visits during February, and there was an increase in the number of books borrowed. The drive up services remain very popular. Cheri is also preparing to hire some staff (consistent with this year's approved budget). She anticipates the library will be able to add more "open" hours as the pandemic subsides. Her planning remains fully informed by and consistent with the state and CDC guidance on Covid mitigation. She also advised that her planning takes into account that the entire library staff is not eligible for the vaccine at this time, and only those staff who fall within the state's 1A guidelines are able to be vaccinated. These factors will have an impact on the ability to allow more patrons and increased hours of operation at least for the short term. She also noted that no member of the library staff has contracted Covid 19 since the staff has returned to work, as a result of everyone complying with safe practices (wearing masks, distancing, cleaning, etc).

Cheri also advised that the Library Board will be considering some new/revised policies at their next meeting, specifically Study Room and Meeting Room Use. She noted that

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meeting rooms will be rentable. Parks and Rec will manage the room rentals through their current software program.

Cheri also provided an update on Capital Campaign efforts. She reported that some additional gifts have been secured recently, and the fundraising committee will be reconvening in the near future to develop the next round of strategies for reaching our goal.

Cheri then described planning for the possible “Friends Library Shop.” The Board reviewed the list of duties that would be required to launch this effort. There was a discussion of the amount of work required to process and prepare used books for sale, as well as the possibility of offering other items and new books in this space. Some people have expressed interest in providing help for this project on a volunteer basis. The Friends Board remains interested in pursuing this for the new site, and Cheri will be discussing these plans further with those interested in assisting, and she will report back to us.

Jewelry Sale update: Jo-Ann advised that she has been receiving inquiries about scheduling this popular fundraiser. She proposed, and the Friends agreed, that another sale could occur in April using the same format as the most recent sale (i.e., registering for time-limited appointments of no more than 10 people at a time, conducted over a weekend). Some Board members offered to assist in this effort. Jo-Ann will be sending out proposed April dates for the sale to the Friends Board. Karen Preston will assist with the online scheduling that was successful in managing the latest Jewelry Sale.

New Business

Friends Annual Meeting Planning The Board discussed plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting, scheduled for April 8, at 1:00 pm, on Zoom. The goal of this year’s meeting will be to use this as an outreach event to attract volunteers, new Friends members and potential capital campaign donors. Toward that end, the Board agreed to a limited “business” agenda and will use this meeting as an opportunity to describe the various ways to participate in the operation of the Library, i.e., as a Friends member, as a Friends Board member or as a library volunteer. The Board also agreed to offer incentives to encourage community attendance at this meeting. These incentives will include a short presentation/food demonstration by Ernie Pio, the chef who is expected to operate a small cafe at 520 VA Drive in the future. The Board unanimously agreed to fund up to \$150. for this presentation. In addition, guests in attendance will be eligible to be selected to receive a free ticket for the upcoming virtual event, “One County, One

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Book.” The recipient will also receive a signed copy of the author’s book (David Baldacci). In addition to using the usual library emails and announcements to promote the upcoming annual Friends meeting, Cheri agreed she would look into putting a sign/notice in the library.

In addition, Robert reminded the Board that the annual meeting agenda also includes an announcement of the names of all Friends Board members who wish to continue their service on the Board for the upcoming year, and in the positions they currently hold. Any Friends Board member who wants to change their status should notify Robert ASAP.

National Library Week: Cheri reported that the Board of Commissioners has issued a proclamation announcing that National Library Week begins on April 4 this year. Cheri will explore the possibility of promoting this event through a “photo op” with some Commissioners and the Friends/Library Board presidents.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Friends of UDPL is the ANNUAL MEETING and is scheduled for April 8, at 1:00pm, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Murphy, Secretary