

The Friends of Upper Dublin Public Library

Monthly Meeting of Friends Board Members

Virtual meeting conducted using Zoom

May 13, 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, Annabelle Coplan, Tim Snyder.

A meeting at which a quorum was present was held and called to order at 1:03pm.

Introduction and Welcome to guests: Robert Stutz welcomed attending guests who included a library intern, Annabelle Coplan, and a library consultant, Tim Snyder

Additions to the Agenda: The Friends will conduct the annual election of officers at this meeting.

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Minutes Approval for the April 2021 Annual meeting: The Minutes of the April 2021 meeting were provided to the Friends Board members prior to today's meeting. On motion, the proposed 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.

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. The Friends started this month with a balance of \$173,405.86. Thanks to the considerable efforts of Jo-Ann, along with several volunteers, she reported that the Friends were able to raise \$1,556.00 from the recent Jewelry Sale. The major expense for this past month was in support of the museum pass program, with renewal fees of \$1,845. In her review of the status of the Capital Campaign funds, Jo-Ann noted that deposits of \$2,810. were made to that fund, for a current balance of \$30,090.74.

Membership Update: Jan advised that one new member joined the Friends in the past month, with a contribution of \$100. The Board then discussed possible plans for the upcoming annual appeal by the Friends. In light of the various considerations that must be made (e.g., timing of the appeal, coordination with the Capital Campaign efforts), it was AGREED that a separate committee will be assembled for the purpose of creating a plan and reporting back to the Friends Board on proposed plans for conducting the 2021 annual Friends Appeal. The Board also AGREED that the membership drive will be conducted starting in November this year, to reflect our new fiscal year, which begins in January 2022. The Board also AGREED to keep Cheri informed of any developments in order to coordinate with ongoing planning related to the Capital Campaign.

Old Business

Jewelry Sale: Jo-Ann provided details of the recent Friends Jewelry Sale. This event continued to be conducted consistent with Covid precautions, as done in the past. There were no problems to report, and both Jan and Suanne Strauss noted that people who attended were pleased and grateful for the efforts. The Board extended its thanks to Jo-Ann for all her work to make this a successful event.

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New Library and related updates: Cheri Fiory provided updates on operations of the library. She anticipates expanding the library's hours of operations as the Covid restrictions start to be revised, and she expects significant changes as we move through the rest of this year. Saturday hours have been added, and additional workers are coming on board, notably in the children's area. Study rooms are now being opened, and there are numerous programs being developed for children and families. More patrons are also visiting now, and some are seeing the new facility for the first time. In addition, she anticipates more 'in person' events in the fall, assuming the Covid situation continues to improve.

Cheri then introduced Tim Snyder, who is a long-time fundraising consultant for libraries. Tim is providing advice and assistance to Cheri during the 'completion' phase of the Capital Campaign. Cheri will continue to advise the Friends Board as plans are developed for this stage of the 520 VA Drive fundraising efforts.

Cheri also described the ongoing plans for opening a "Friends Library Shop" at 520 VA Drive. She invited everyone to consider serving as volunteers for the shop, and advised that in mid-June the book donations process will begin again. There was a discussion about the timing for the re-start of the book sales and the plans for opening the shop. Cheri will begin taking steps necessary to restart used book sales in this new setting, possibly by July/August.

Toward that end, and related to the overall budget proposal that Cheri presented to the Friends at this meeting, she proposed that the Friends budget include \$7500 for furnishing this new space. After discussion, the Board AGREED to fund this line item on the proposed budget in the full amount requested, as a sound investment for the future. The Friends Board also AGREED to separately provide some additional funds for merchandise to be sold in the Library Shop. Cheri agreed she would further review the proposed Friends budget for possible reductions. The Board and Cheri thus AGREED to revisit the remaining budget proposals at the next meeting.

New Business

Election of Friends Board Officers

The Board conducted the annual election of officers. Richard Haggard advised that he is resigning from his current position as Friends Board Vice President and will continue to serve as a Board member. Robert proposed that Richard would serve as the VP emeritus of the Friends. Richard further proposed that for the upcoming year Cathy Murphy serve as Vice President, and that Susan Tofani serve as the Secretary for the

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Friends. He then moved that the Board accept these changes to the Friends Board, with the remaining officers (Robert Stutz, President; Jo-Ann Hunt, Treasurer; and Jan Frohner, Membership Chair) retaining their current positions. In response to the motion, the Board unanimously AGREED to adopt this slate of officers for the upcoming year. As a result of these changes, the officers who now have signing authority for the Friends bank accounts are: Robert Stutz; Jo-Ann Hunt; Jan Frohner, Catherine Murphy; and Susan Tofani. Additionally, it is noted that the official address for the Friends of Upper Dublin Public Library is now 520 Virginia Drive, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

Additional Use of Susan Tofani's presentation; The Board discussed various ways to make the most effective use of the slides and presentation that Susan made at this year's Annual Meeting. The Board AGREED that the information presented by Susan should be shared on a broader platform, to encourage and inspire both donors and new volunteers. The Board also agreed that there should be further consideration of how to best present this segment of the annual meeting, e.g., by a link on the Library website, on the Donor Perfect website, and possibly at a designated location in the Library. Cheri and Karen will pursue options in this regard and provide further information to the Board about proposed uses at a future meeting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Friends of UDPL is scheduled for June 10, 2021. After discussion, the Board agreed to conduct the June 2021 meeting using ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Murphy, Secretary