

Friends of the Oak Park Public Library
Executive Board Meeting
January 22, 2024
Minutes

Present: Russ Glidden (President), Chet Taranowski, Joslyn Bowling Dixon (Library Director), Beth Streit (Secretary), Suzy Wolf (Deputy Director), Nancy Hartman, Denise Roser (Treasurer), Kat Bell (Vice President)

Present on Zoom: Eric Bryning, Nancy Clark, Stuart Green

Call to Order: Russ called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review of November 20, 2023 meeting minutes: The minutes were reviewed. Chet moved and Kat seconded to approve. All agreed to approve.

Treasurer's Report: Russ reported that we received a \$75 check from member James Strait. Denise reported that our 501c3 registration expired. As it has been more than 3 years since FOPPL was registered, our exempt status has been revoked. FOPPL used to get a letter from the library's lawyer at the library concerning the 501c3 status but has not received anything for several years. We last registered in 2019, before the pandemic. Denise has researched what to do and believes we can reinstate FOPPL's tax exempt status easily through a 1024 easy form so long as it is done within three years of the tax-exempt status expiring. Denise will endeavor to reinstate our status before the annual meeting in March. If she needs help, she will look for an accountant to help and run that person and the cost by the Board in an email and we will vote on whether to approve this course of action by email, as we need to get it done before the next meeting.

As of 12/31/23, FOPPL had a total of \$69,055.48 - \$40,719.89 in a money market account and \$28,335.59 in an operating account. Stu asked how the money is used. Russ explained that the library asks for money once a year, typically in January, and the Board votes on what to approve. FOPPL funds are also used for the Ballanger lecture series and the folk music series. Historically, we give between 17-19,000. Last year the request was \$44,000 so the contribution from FOPPL was given in two installments. Joslyn said she would get us the library's request for 2024 before the next meeting in March so the Board can consider it before the meeting. Joslyn will also provide background on the request.

Library Board Report: The new Deputy Director Suzy Wulf introduced herself. She comes to us most recently from the Prospect Heights Library. She has worked in libraries for over a decade. She is very happy to be at a world class library and is here to support FOPPL.

Joslyn reported that the swag sale is going well. The library spent \$16,000 in donated funds on the items purchased and has made over \$10,000 in sales. The library will reinvest what was made on the pop-up and sell items during the book fair and perhaps during the summer reading

program. The mug was the hottest selling item so the library will focus on smaller items next time. The merchandise that didn't sell will be sold on line. The library has asked for an 8% increase in its budget and is always looking for revenue streams. It now has two electric vehicle charging stations that can generate revenue.

Membership Report: FOPPL currently has 57 paid members. We will table sending out an email blast for more members until our tax-exempt status is straightened out.

Four Board members' terms are expiring in March: Doug Deuchler, Russ Glidden, Nancy Hartman and Denise Roser. Denise is resigning as Treasurer at the next meeting but will stay on as a member. Nancy will stay on as a member. Doug asked for a leave of absence due to health concerns. Russ wants to step down as president.

The Board needs a minimum of ten members. A discussion was held about potential new members. Russ will talk to Jody about putting a notice in a local paper for new Board members.

Folk Series: Nancy Clark reported that there were 75 people at the first event in 24, even though the weather was bad that night. We usually get between 400-600 people per concert. She has two more events planned in March and May. She is trying to get a group from overseas for September. The goal is about six concerts per year.

Film Series: It will not continue in its current form. The library will run it. Eric has some ideas for it and will be put in touch with the Director of Adult Services, Alexandra Skinner.

Spring Social Event: Beth reported that we will have a trivia contest in the community center for FOPPL volunteers on April 9. There will be prizes for the 1st and 2nd place teams. A tour of the Creative Studio similar to the one the Board got last summer was suggested. Suzy said she was meeting the team who worked in that area the next day and would ask about it. Beth said she would email Suzy about it. Beth also asked if the library could donate a couple of pieces of swag for prizes. Joslyn told Beth to email her about it.

Miscellaneous: Russ showed the group the seedling painting. Kat moved to donate it to the library and Denise seconded it. All approved.

Adjournment: Beth moved to adjourn and Kat seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Streit