

**Friends of the Oak Park Public Library**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**May 20, 2024**  
Minutes

**Present:** Russ Glidden (President), Chet Taranowski, Beth Streit (Secretary), Suzy Wolf (Deputy Director), Nancy Hartman, Denise Roser, Kat Bell (Vice President), Jennie Stevens, Eric Bryning, Stuart Greene, Diane Cranford

**Present on Zoom:** Leila Massouh (Treasurer), Nancy Clark

**Call to Order:** Russ called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Review of March 18, 2024 meeting minutes:** The minutes were reviewed. Jennie moved and Stu seconded to approve. All agreed to approve.

**Treasurer's Report:** Leila reported that we are officially a non-profit again. She also reported that we have \$28,423.93 in our checking account and \$40,704.15 in the money market account. Jennie moved, Beth seconded and all approved the Treasurer's report.

**Library Board Report:** Suzy reported that the library is getting ready for the Book Fair. FOPPL will get the books that are being put in the donation bin for the Fair. Centuries and Sleuths bookstore will donate the books it has left after it closes at the end of May and library facilities will retrieve the books for FOPPL. The library will not be able to participate in the Fourth of July parade this year due to staffing issues.

**Membership Report:** Chet reported that we have a new prospective member for the Board – Diane Cranford. Chet reviewed her application with the Board. Chet nominated Diane for membership on the Board. Chet moved and Jennie seconded Diane's membership on the Board. All approved.

**Finance & Budget:** Kat reported that the reconstituted committee met. Kat explained FOPPL's funding philosophy, that it would like the library to 1) distribute funding across the library population, 2) fund programs and experiences (not equipment or facilities except equipment that funds experiences such as the laser printer we funded), 3) credit Friends where possible (ex. Barbara Ballinger Lecture and Folk Music Series) and 4) use funds as earmarked and provide an annual accounting of usage. Suzy asked about timing for fund requests. Denise explained that typically we would fund requests within a week of the January meeting but because recent library requests were so much bigger than was typical, we had had to break up funding as we didn't have enough money to fund the request until after the Book Fair. Kat said that we would like to get the library funding request in December and that we would vote on it at the January meeting. Russ asked that the library prioritize its requests. Kat reported that the Finance & Budget Committee recommended the following amounts for the following requests: 1) Adult Services & Creative Studio \$11,325, consisting of a) Barbara Ballinger Lecture, \$5,000, b) Folk

Music Series, \$4,000 c) Illinois Libraries Present membership \$1,375, and d) Bambu Lab 3D Printer \$950, 2) Middle and High School: Chicago Football Classic: \$3,500 and 3) Community Engagement: Pop-Up Libraries: \$3,000. Total approved: \$17,825. Nancy moved, Stu seconded and all approved the Finance & Budget report, funding philosophy and allocation of funds.

**Folk Series:** Nancy reported that the 5/2 folk concert was well attended. It had 60 audience members, including a young family. The next concert will be Black Feathers in September.

**Spring Social Event:** Jennie reported that though the event was thinly attended but all who did attend had fun. She thanked the librarians who stayed to give the attendees a tour of the Creative Studio. They got lots of questions. The librarians also gave attendees a phone stand with our logo on it made with the laser printer that we funded.

**Fall 2024 Social Event:** Stu has contacted several people about a program on book censorship but has not heard back from any of them. A discussion was held on contacts that might be helpful for a program and potential co-sponsors of a program.

**Book Fair Training:** The training was a success. There were at least 60 people in attendance, 20-25 of them new volunteers. At least 20 people ordered T-shirts.

**Update on 2024 Book Fair:** We thanked Eric for his T-shirt design. Last year we lost money on the T-shirts. This year, we will order 75 T-shirts at a cost of \$662.50, which runs to \$8.83 a shirt. Russ sent our bookmark for printing to Dan Haley at the Wednesday Journal. Eric designed and ordered a banner for the parade. A discussion was held about whether to order yard signs advertising the Book Fair and how many and what size ads to place in the Wednesday Journal. Denise will email the Wednesday Journal about the cost of an ad and report back and then we will vote on how many and what size ad(s) to order. Kat moved to purchase 25 yard signs. Stu seconded and all approved.

Russ reported that the Community Justice Manager for the Village of Oak Park will provide volunteers for us during the Book Fair. The library will provide 2 interns part-time.

If you have not already done so, Board members should sign up for shifts to supervise book sorting volunteer sessions.

**Adding Former Members to Honorary Plaque:** Russ asked if the Board would like to add Doug Deuchler, former long-time film series coordinator and Doris Adamczewski, former long-time secretary, to the honorary plaque for FOPPL. Jennie moved to do so, Beth seconded and all approved.

**Day in Our Village:** We need Board members to staff the table at Day in Our Village on June 2. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Like last year, we will give away books, particularly children's books, which were very popular.

**Fourth of July Parade/Juneteenth Parade:** The Juneteenth Parade was canceled. We will march in the Fourth of July Parade and hand out candy.

**Adjournment:** Jennie moved to adjourn and Nancy seconded it. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

**The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 7 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Streit