

## **FOPPL January 27, 2025 Board Meeting**

**Present In Person:** Kathleen Bell, Eric Bryning, Diane Cranford, Russ Glidden, Suzy Wulf, Leila Massouh, Stuart Greene, Beth Streit, Nancy Hartman, and Chet Taranowski

**Present on Zoom:** Nancy Clark, Denise Roser

**Member:** Robert Becker

**Call to Order:** Russ called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Review of October 21, 2024 meeting minutes** The minutes were corrected to add Beth Streit as a Board member in attendance and to correct the spelling of Diane's name under the Fall 2024 social event. Kat moved and Eric seconded and all voted to so correct the minutes.

**Library Report** Suzy reported that the library has finished the first round of interviews for a new library director and will have a second round soon. The staff will have a learning and engagement day on January 31 for all staff from the main library and both branches. The Friends are sponsoring a hot chocolate bar at it. The Friends are getting a lot of positive shout outs.

**Treasurers Report** Leila reported that we have \$36,139.98 in our checking account and \$40,774.20 in our money market account.

### **Reports:**

- **Membership: Chet Taranowski**
  - **Pricing structure and membership benefits** Eric reported on some ideas for membership benefits. One suggestion is to have a preview night for members the day before the book fair opens. However, concerns were expressed about logistics issues. Another suggestion was to give members a credit of perhaps \$5 to use at the book fair. The subcommittee will meet again to discuss other ideas and report back to the Board at the next meeting.
  - **Robert Becker, candidate for board position** Chet introduced Robert as a candidate for a Board position. He has been an Oak Parker since 1990, has two English degrees, has worked in libraries and believes it is important to support libraries. Before he retired, he worked at the Chicago Tribune. Russ has met with him and believes he would be a good addition to the Board. Robert's name will be put forth for a Board position at the March meeting
- **Finance & Budget:** The subcommittee met and proposed that the Friends identify several key items that they would like to be recognized for as their featured funding effort. For these items, they would like to be recognized as the sponsor/donor where

feasible and appropriate. The items we would like to fund and be recognized for in 2025 are: 1) the Barbara Ballinger Lecture (\$3000), 2) Chicago Classic College Fair and Football Event (\$3,000) and 3) the Folk Music Series (\$3000). Any unused donated funds relating to the featured funding items would be considered as an unrestricted donation to the Library. It was also proposed that the Friends donate additional unrestricted funds to the Library in accordance with our mission of “raising and distributing funds for the greater good of the Oak Park Public Library.” The proposed unrestricted donation for 2025 is \$14,000.

Nancy asked if we could get a report from the Library on the use of the unrestricted donation. Chet moved that we adopt the Finance and Budget Committee’s recommendations and that the Library report back to the Board on the use of the unrestricted donation. Diane seconded and all approved.

The Finance Committee also recommended that the annual distribution from the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library Fund held at the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation be issued directly to the Friends rather than the Library and that the Friends promptly donate the 2025 distribution to the Library. In future years, the funds from the annual distribution will then be available for inclusion with the annual donation to the Library or may be used directly by the Friends in support of our mission.

As suggested by the Community Foundation, an amendment to the Friend Endowed Agency Fund Agreement will be enacted to clarify the charitable purpose of the Friends and the distribution procedures.

It was also proposed that the Friends make an additional donation to \$20,000 to the Friends Library Fund from the funds currently held in the Friends’ money market account at Byline Bank.

Chet moved to follow these recommendations, Leila seconded and all approved.

- **Folk Music Series: Nancy Clark** Nancy reported that she has three concerts scheduled in the spring and three in the fall and all the dates are set.

#### **2025 Book Fair committee reports**

- **Source for boxes: Jennie** Jennie found a local source for boxes for \$1.11 per box. Shipping rates are \$60. The boxes are also environmentally friendly. We were paying \$1.47 per box with a shipping rate of \$90.
- **Professional book buyers: Jennie and Stuart** will be meeting with Beth and Diane’s committee on February 16<sup>th</sup> and will report at the next meeting.

- **Signage:** Russ reported that we will have the book prices on all the signs that indicate what type of books are on that particular table. We will also give everyone a sheet with a map of book locations and prices of books when they come into the book fair.
- **Written and/or posted rules of book sale etiquette:** Beth and Diane will be meeting on February 16, along with Stuart and his subcommittee on February 16 and will report back at the next meeting.

**Workers for Monday after book sale needed: how to recruit?** Eric is going to talk to some high school sports teams about helping.

**Honor Detective Reddins?** It was suggested that we make our donation to the Classic College Fair and Football Event in memory of Detective Reddins. Suzy will get feedback on this idea from the library staff and report back in March.

**Creator of moon logo** Russ got a communication from Alexis Toboloski who told him that her mother Chris Meer created the moon logo used by the Friends. (Alexis saw someone on the Metro in DC with a tote bag with the logo). Her mom is an independent graphic designer and designed the logo in 1980 or 1981. She still has the original sketches and can give them to us.

**Spring 2025 social event** Eric and Diane volunteered to plan an event for April.

**Adjournment** I moved and Kat seconded that we adjourn and all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting: March 10, 2025**

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Streit