



Friends of the Oak Park Public Library

March Board meeting

3/10/2025

Attendance: Kathleen Bell, Nancy Hartman, Leila Massouh, Suzy Antell, Maya Ganguly, Chet Taranowski, Russell Glidden, Jennie Stevens, Stuart Greene, Robert Becker, Denise Roser, Nancy Clark, Eric Bryning, Diane Cranford.

Acting Secretary: Chet Taranowski

Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously for the January 27 meeting.

Library Liaison

The board report by Maya stated that three final Executive Director interviews were in process. The candidates will be meeting with leadership and the staff. The new CEO is expected to start in May. If Maya is reelected, she will volunteer to be our representative.

Detective Reddins: The idea of honoring the late officer was discussed. Developing a tee shirt for others to wear at an event honoring the officer was discussed. Twenty people will require shirts.

Recognizing Friends Donations: The library communications team is developing a policy to consistently and formally recognize Friends' donations (i.e. announcements at sponsored events, labels/plaques on donated equipment)

Treasurer

Leila made the report: Checking \$13,196. Money Market \$40,780. The library requested a P/ L statement in the next few weeks. There is an existing template on a Google spread sheet. Denise stated she would assist Leila if necessary.

Membership

Jennie reported on the membership levels meeting; and the board voted to reinstate the membership drive, with the membership levels at:

- Individual \$25
- Couple \$50
- Family \$100

The board was supportive of membership communications that emphasize that membership is a point of pride and support for the library and honors the freedom to read.

The membership committee will meet again to discuss other membership options, including:

- discounts on merchandise for paid members, with a poster developed for these items indicating a regular price and a member price.
- Printed recognition for membership (note: ask members during registration if they wish to opt-out)
- Invitations to Friends events
- Free entry for the first three hours of the book fair.

Newsletter: An electronic quarterly (email) newsletter was also suggested. Among other items, it would include a member spotlight, results of the book fair sales, and notices about the upcoming social events. The communication team will help via a consultation. Russell will convene this group. Russ, Jennie and Chet and Diane will develop the project. Jennie will organize the featured member interview to be listed in the first newsletter.

Membership form/communication: Collecting information about the members is not possible on the current website. Information such as names and other data will need to be obtained by direct communication with the member. Emails are available and will be used to forward a form to the individual. This form will be developed by Chet. It will be necessary to check the website at least monthly to initiate this electronic communication. The form will offer the opt-out option for the public display of the contributor's name.

Folk music

Nancy Clark reported. We had the first concert on a Sunday. There was a robust attendance. There were approximately 80 attendees. The next concert is on April 15.

Book Fair

A report was delivered by the sub-committee about the rules for professional book buyers. The goal was to not restrict them so much as to limit their contribution yet ensure that there is an orderly sale. One of the key issues was the discomfort the volunteers would face in setting limits on errant patrons. Would there be issues of liability in the confrontations with rule breakers? There has been a history of arguments that necessitated using security.

The library deals with issues like these frequently. There is a library Public Safety team now in place which employs cameras and walkie-talkies to maintain order. Rules are posted throughout the library. The team often diffuses these troublesome situations. These same resources could be used with unruly book sale patrons.

To make this more effective for the book sale specific rules of conduct should be developed and posted.

The usefulness of walkie talkies was discussed both for security reasons and to help in the smooth transfer of information during the sale. It was recommended that one radio be available on each floor. Radios may be available via Jennie's library connections.

Diane's subcommittee suggested we charge twenty-five dollars to enter the first three hours of the book fair on Friday morning (when there are many booksellers). This fee would be waived for members. The money would be collected at the door and wristbands would be distributed indicating access to the early hours of the sale. Rules of etiquette would be printed on the information quarter-sheet which is handed out to each book sale patron. Violation of the rules would make it clear that we have the right to ask patrons to leave and to refuse to sell them books. Further decisions regarding these rules must be made before the next Board meeting in May. Stuart will convene a group to address these issues.

Eric is working on finding book fair volunteers through the organization Young Life.

Jennie has identified low-cost sources for the purchase of boxes. We need to find a source for renting tables. Triple A in Melrose Park was used previously. Jennie will work on this

Bob will investigate sources for printing. Russ will provide the names of the printers from last year.

Sales slips will be black and white without the logo. The prices will remain the same.

Eric will work on the purchase and design of tee shirts. It was recommended that the shirts be available in time for the orientation meeting. Last year we purchased 75 shirts.

We now have the original artwork used for the tee shirt and our logo. Yard signs will be used again. Eric will be able to alter last year's signs.

Day in Our Village

The Day in our Village is Sunday, June 1st. We have already paid for the registration. The sign-up will be at the next Board Meeting.

The streets around the park will be closed that day making it difficult to donate books (June 1 was the designated day to begin receiving donations). Consequently, the Board agreed that donations should begin the day before (Saturday, May 31).

Social Event

The Spring Social Event is on Thursday, April 17. It will be at the Maze Library. Eric and Diane are organizing the event. There will be food prizes.

Parade

We will be marching in the fourth of July parade. The banner must be altered to reflect the new dates. Eric suggested he would be able to address this. The sign up for the parade will occur at the Orientation meeting.

We will need more bookmarks. This year we should print 3,000 to be used at the Day In Our Village, the 4th of July parade, and at the farmer's market.

A motion was made to adjourn.