

Friends of the University Libraries

Board Meeting: 2:05-3:40 p.m., Monday, May 7, 2007, 111 East Hall

Present: David Sheldon, Tom Seiler, Warren Fritz, Kathleen Garland-Rike, Susan Steuer, Randle Gedeon, Beth Timmerman, Norm Jung, Greg Fitzgerald, Regina Buckner, Bettina Meyer

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented. (Seiler/Fritz)

Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2007

Minutes were approved. (Jung/Fritz)

Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2008

Minutes were approved unanimously. (Seiler/Buckner)

Board Member Introductions

Each member introduced themselves.

Meeting Times

The first Monday of the month, with no June meeting or August meeting. Sheldon suggested that the meeting in September be on the 10th. All Board members agreed to this schedule.

Comments on the Spring Gathering

The speaker, Elaine Didier, was gracious and presented an interesting talk. Discussion centered on the food at the reception. Kathy Gerow wanted feedback, which Buckner will provide. Publicity was also discussed – who received notification and when.

Bus Tour of the Gerald R. Ford Museum

The possibility of a tour was discussed. Didier was apprised of the Board's interest and was amenable to it. Sheldon suggested it might occur during a fall meeting. Buckner will look into the price of renting a van.

Feedback on Constitution and Bylaws

Jung volunteered to serve as the “designated Board member” to serve on the Executive Committee, if/when one is “empowered to act for the Board of Directors between meetings.” [Article VI, section 3]

Sheldon suggested getting a student on the Board, for which there was general agreement. Libraries members will look into whether any student employees at the Libraries might fulfill this role. (To be continued at next meeting.)

Fritz suggested for discussion at the next meeting: consideration of the past President continuing on the Board in the year following his/her term. All agreed to inviting immediate past President, Mary Anne Sydlik, to attend Board meetings this year as an ex-officio member.

LSAB Grant

Discussion centered on one of the grants (\$400), for which funds have yet to be disbursed to Jim Dexheimer. No action is needed at this time. Siler pointed out that all funds must be coordinated with and in conjunction with the Foundation.

Steuer wondered whether medieval papers that may be donated by faculty would be of interest to the Friends (“nonmonetary”).

Committee Membership

Sheldon solicited volunteers among the new Board members for the Friends committees. He is leaving the website committee. Gedeon will take Sheldon’s place and will receive copies of revisions to the site that Garland-Rike sends to Michael Wang via e-mail.

Meyer’s successor will be in place by July, when she retires from the Libraries.

Website Committee

Ideas for photos, blurbs, etc. needed for July meeting. Meyer suggests adding links to LC’s American Memory project, the Michigan history digitization project. She will provide a list of criteria she is using to select the list, at the next meeting.

Meyers will see that the “About the WMU Libraries” page is updated.

Membership Committee

Fritz moved that free one-year Friends membership be provided to all new Western retirees. Sheldon will write the letter, taking care of communication to fulfill the motion, which was approved unanimously. (Fritz/Jung)

Kathy Gerow will work on the membership list, which will indicate student status as a new data field. This information would help in recruitment of a student Board member.

Treasurer’s Report

Better World Books sent the quarterly distribution of \$321 last week. The only change from the previous report is this payment. The total Better World Books payment received by the Board for this fiscal year is \$1,233.47. Revenue for the year is \$460.49. We may have one other expenditure before the end of the fiscal year, from Dexheimer’s grant.

Generating Revenue

Friends’s donations to the Libraries were discussed. Sheldon is interested in how the Friends can help the Libraries in this way. Inserts to the *Gatherings* soliciting donations were discussed. An insert could be put in and paid for by the Friends.

Fritz suggested creating a schedule for preparing and sending out donated books to Better World Books.

Meyer suggested putting the Libraries Gift Policy on the Friends website to encourage donation, She also suggested bringing in a professional book appraiser as another activity that may bring in more revenue, if books are donated. Sheldon thought this idea might be usable for the Spring Gathering.

Spring Gathering Idea

Steuer was approached by the English Department about a retrospective on John Woods, including an exhibition.

Fall Speaker

Steve Bertman, WMU faculty member, has committed to talk on biodiesel energy, perhaps in November. Discussion of hosting this event on the Engineering campus ensued. A possible tour of the building will be explored, as well.

Next meeting

The next meeting is Monday, July 2, 2007 at 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes taken by Garland-Rike for Carlson.