

Friends of the University Libraries Board Meeting, Monday December 3, 2007, 111 East Hall.

Present: David Sheldon, presiding; Regina Buckner, Sharon Carlson, Gregory Fitzgerald, Warren Fritz, Kathleen Garland-Rike, Randle Gedeon, Norman Jung, Susan Steuer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 by Sheldon.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously. (Carlson/Fritz).

Approval of Minutes of the November 5 Meeting

The minutes approved as presented. (Jung/Fitzgerald)

Current/New Business

Welcome/Announcements – Sheldon

Sheldon will explore sharing the FOLUSA newsletter online.

Sheldon announced that KPL is heavily involved in the upcoming December 7 ArtHop. There will be local authors selling and autographing books, and the Friends bookstore will also be open.

Treasurer's Report

Buckner distributed the Treasurer's Report. Gerow sent the membership letter out last week for people who renewed last December. So far, 34 people have renewed and there are 3 new members. Financial activity since month includes catering for the meeting receptions \$131.60, \$160 for the *Gatherings* mailing and printing, and \$615 in membership donations. The treasury balance is \$11,558.29.

Better World Books

Gedeon has 30 boxes to send out this week. Eighteen boxes were prepared last weekend. We sort the books, pack them, and prepare packages to go. Better World Books pays shipping. .

Thoughts on the Bertman Biofuels Presentation

Sheldon noted that the meeting room was almost filled to capacity and probably about 100 were in attendance. It was a good cross section with many students, faculty, and Friends in attendance. Despite some problems with getting the room set-up before the meeting and less publicity, it went well.

Progress on March 13 (Winter) Fund Raiser Event

Sheldon has been in touch with Jim Best and discussing strategies for the event. Best wondered about having a two tiered cost of appraisal with a slightly higher cost or donation for non-members. He would like \$1.00 for each book appraisal. It was suggested that the Friends request a donation of somewhere between \$3 and \$5 for each book appraised. It was also suggested that there be a general talk, possibly 30 to 45 minutes, about book appraisal in general. There was also discussion about the best time to schedule this event. It is easier for students and faculty if it is late afternoon, but this conflicts with other schedules. There was discussion on how to entertain others while books are being appraised. Would the appraisal process itself have sufficient entertainment value? Attendees also need to be aware that whatever they bring will be visible to others. It was suggested that if individuals have the opportunity to submit some basic

information about their books before the event, it could facilitate the process and allow Best time to do research if needed. Steuer indicated that this information could be submitted to the Special Collections' email, rbr-lib@wmich.edu. She also offered to help develop an information form to be filled out by anyone wishing to have a book appraised. The form would be included in the mailing to Friends members along with the flyer announcing the event. There was also a discussion on where to have the event. Suggested venues included the Oaklands, VanDeusen Room, and other sites. Best needs to have wireless access. Fritz indicated the committee will finalize location, time, and some of the other logistical details before the next meeting.

Additional ideas that were brought forth in this discussion included the possibility of doing joint fund raisers or events with the Kalamazoo Public Library Friends organization. Buckner suggested that a future event at Friendship Village or some of the other retirement communities where many members of the Friends reside may be something to consider as well.

Update on Plans for Spring Event

Steuer reported the event will be in April. She has been in touch with her contact at the Spanish Embassy. The goal of the embassy is to get students and community involved. Steuer will finalize the date. Fritz suggested contacting Marti Fritz at Kalamazoo Public Library and Marsha Meyer at Portage District Library. This will be our annual meeting as well. We will elect officers and board members, and conduct other necessary business.

Old Business

Final Touches on FUL Membership Application

Sheldon has been working on the materials developed by Fitzgerald. There was discussion about where to place the WMU payroll deduction form. Whang will include this on the online application.

Update on Plans for Bettina's "Gift"

Buckner does not have final information on funds donated to honor Bettina Meyers' retirement. The Friends will fund \$200 toward digitization of Civil War letters in Bettina's honor. Carlson will submit the name of the student employee working on the project to Buckner.

Insurance for Exhibit

The Friends agreed to pay for the Newberry request of extra insurance to cover the manuscript exhibit. Steuer needs a letter. She will also find out how much the insurance will cost to cover some of the manuscripts that have been appraised at higher values. Steuer noted that the appraised amount varies over time. She will get this information by early March but indicated that total cost of insurance should not exceed three hundred dollars.

Other Business

Bus Tours or Field Trips

It was suggested to have a sign-up sheet at future meetings to determine how many people would be interested in a field trip to the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids. Other suggested trips included a tour of Larry Massie's collection. Carlson indicated that she could facilitate that if there is sufficient interest.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21.

The next meeting is January 7.

Minutes taken by Sharon Carlson.