

Minutes for the Friends of the Arlington Public Library Board Meeting
February 11, 2013
Central Library, Second Floor Meeting Room

I. Call to Order: 7:00 PM

1. Board Members and Guests in Attendance: Kit Ballenger, Nathan Norton, Dean Daniel, Eva Griffeth, Julia Karell, Gary Gortenburg, Nada Sulaiman, Nadine Berg, Rachel Wood, Rachel Harlan.
2. There were no amendments to the February 11th agenda.
3. Gary Gortenburg offered a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2013 meeting, and it was seconded by Nathan Norton and passed.

II. Treasurer's Report

1. Nathan Norton reported that there is an ongoing audit and that he has submitted all of the required materials.
2. Nathan noted that after the audit is completed he would package up all of the budget materials, and put them in the Materials Management storage section of the Library. The oldest materials currently in storage will be moved to a box for storage in the Virginia room.
3. Nathan noted that he would need time during the next board meeting to discuss the audit in more detail.
4. Nathan also noted that Mariel Tewksbury has been mailing out the April membership renewals. The December renewals are now being returned.
5. Dean Daniel then discussed some recommendations for future changes to the FOAL portfolio, which currently consists of 50% bonds and 50% equities. He suggested that FOAL reduce exposure to bonds in favor of equities should an opportunity for buying equities at a lower price level occur this year. Although Dean noted that normally bonds would be the perfect safe investment, bond interest rates have become so low and their prices so highly valued that bonds are now much riskier than usual. He said that if equities should drop 5 to 10 percent that he would contact the FOAL board members for an online vote for approval to move to a portfolio that has 30% bonds and 70% equities.
6. Nathan will check with the Arlington Community Foundation to make sure that they do not have a specific time period for changing the FOAL portfolio allocation.

III. New Business

1. Julia Karell updated the Board on the position changes that have been made at the Arlington County Public Library. Rachel Wood is now the Acting Division Chief for the Materials Management Division and will be attending the Friends' board meetings.

2. It was noted that FOAL Volunteers would be needed to staff a membership table during the Arlington Reads Author Talks on April 9, 16, and 29th. Nadine Berg and Susan McCarthy will cover April 9th, Kit Ballenger and Kathy Snyder will cover April 16th, and Gary Gortenburg and Mariel Tewksbury will cover April 29th.
3. There was a discussion about the need to have a large sign posted with the Friends' logo explaining that the event was brought to you by the Friends of the Arlington County Public Library. A motion was offered to provide for the expenditure of up to \$500 for the production of this sign. It was approved by Gary and seconded by Nada and passed.
4. Kit agreed to contact several vendors and obtain prices for the production of this type of a sign.

IV. Library Staff Report

1. Rachel Harlan from Youth Services provided an update on the 1,000 books before kindergarten program (1kb4k). She said that when families register they would get a folder with information about the program and a reading log. There will be a prize after completing 25 books and a reading bag after 100 books. After 500 books are read the children will receive a book and after 1,000 books are completed they will receive a certificate, patch, and book. She said that the target audience is low-income families and they will focus on the head start school population and could partner with the Arlington Housing Corporation and the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing. However, no child who would like to participate will be turned away. Posters and flyers will be put up at the targeted sites. There is a limit to how many children they can enroll at this time because of the cost of the materials. Rachel noted that they are working on a database and with the public schools on finding ways to get statistical reports.
2. Rachel then spoke about an event book ball, targeted at the 20 and 30 year old metro renters, that the library would like to host. The event would be held on a cost recovery basis and in hopes of raising funds for a library program. It is estimated that it would cost about \$10,000 and the plan would be to charge \$25 per ticket with the hope of having about 400 people attend. Various locations such as the Artisphere and the Westin Arlington Gateway are being considered. The literary theme for this year's event would be the Gatsby Ball and there would be food and a cash bar and a jazz group to provide music. The request would be for the Friends' to cover the up front costs and it was agreed that this is something that the Friends' would like to do and that the planning should continue to move forward.

V. Old Business

1. Eva and Gary updated the Board on the status of the FOAL website. They noted that they sat with Alex for a training session on how to use Word Press and that it was not difficult to use. At the current point the free template is being used and this should be adequate for now. Eva and Gary are going through the website and considering changes. By April they should be able to share some actual content recommendations, but they could provide some initial thoughts at the March meeting.
2. It was noted that Barbara Goldstein had agreed to work with Neil Phelps on the April book sale. Everyone on the board expressed their appreciation for her willingness to do this.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next board meeting will be on March 18, 2013 at 7:00 PM.