

Friends of the Arlington Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2016, 7:00 PM Second Floor Meeting Room
Central Library

- I. **Call to Order:** 7:05 PM, Present: Kate Summers-President; Nada Sulaiman-Secretary; David Evans-Plaza Representative; Eva Griffith-Central Library Representative; Robbie Cohrssen-Westover Representative; Marty Pippins-Cherrydale Representative; Shari Henry-Library Liaison; Joni Sterne-Donation Processing Team
- II. **Amendments to Agenda:** There were no amendments to the meeting agenda.
- III. **Book sale:** The Board discussed the book sale. Eva noted that this book sale included an additional 245 boxes of books. Finding space for the books was difficult, and there were a lot of leftovers. Better World Books and Wonderbooks purchased some of the leftover books. Wonderbooks did not take hardcover books, however, and lots of foreign language books remained. Eva suggested clarification of FOAL's contract with Wonderbooks on the issue of what they will purchase after the sale. In addition, there were several other used book sales on the same weekend as the FOAL book sale. On Thursday night especially, customers had several sales to choose from. Kate noted that the book sale benefited greatly from advertising on social media, including Facebook and Twitter. Many teachers and librarians attended the sale. Eva stated that in terms of sales, this book sale did better everyday, except Thursday. Fewer booksellers attended on Thursday night. Kate reported that Member's Night worked very well. Several customers commented that they had a positive experience.
- IV. **Membership:** David reported that 111 people paid for FOAL membership on Member's Night, with 60 new members and the rest renewing members. FOAL has 735 active members, and 546 of those have provided an email address.
- V. **New Business:** Maurice Sendak Art Exhibit: FOAL was recently approached with an opportunity to host a traveling exhibit of Maurice Sendak art. The exhibit would be held in 2019 at a total cost of \$13,000. Kate stated that in order to recoup some of the costs of the exhibit, the FOAL Board would have to commit to working as a team on fundraising, including hosting ticketed events and selling merchandise relating to the exhibit. Shari stated that she talked to Julia Karell and Margaret both of whom agreed that the Library could offer staff support. However, FOAL cannot use funds from the existing programming budget. Additional funds would be necessary. FOAL would have to pay half of the funds now and half at a later date. Shari stated the Seattle Library had a lot of success with the exhibit. David noted that this exhibit is 3 years out, and the Board is in a shaky financial situation. The Board would be taking on a program that no current member of the Board would work on. David said that it is a not a good idea to take such a financial risk when the Board is

not sure it would get a return on its investment. David moved that FOAL host the Maurice Sendak art exhibit. Eva seconded the motion. Referring to David and Kate's previous comments the Board voted. All opposed the motion, the motion failed. (2) FOAL Board Bags: Kate suggesting purchasing a zip-top tote bag for each member of the FOAL Board containing FOAL talking points, membership sign-up sheets, brochures and other FOAL information. Board members would use the bags at FOAL sponsored events to sign-up new members and provide information about FOAL. The Board agreed that this is a good idea and asked Kate to go ahead. (3) FOAL Brochures and Logo: The Library has hired a new communications lead. He has offered to meet with the Board to review branding for new FOAL brochures. Shari said that she would speak to him and Library Staff to find out if she could set up a meeting with a FOAL working group.

VI. Old Business: (1) Puzzlefest: Kate reported that Puzzlefest went very well. Attendees donated \$15 to attend the event and many signed up as FOAL members. Doug Gardner is trying to find and train people to take over running Puzzlefest. (2) Upcoming Library Events: Shari stated that Julia would update the Board on upcoming events via email. Shari also reported that the Library is re-launching book kits for book group discussions. The kits contain notebooks, reviews and discussion questions. The FOAL logo will be on the kits. (3) FOAL By-Law Revisions: The Board decided to finalize the By-Law revisions at the January 2017 meeting. The December 14 meeting will be canceled because of conflicts for several Board members. (4) DPT Appreciation Dinner: Joni asked the Board to increase the amount per person for the Donation Processing Team dinner, which is held after each book sale. The Board had decided to allow \$50 per person for the dinner. Joni explained, however, that there is a 20% gratuity added for any party over 6 and there are several other constraints in terms of finding a restaurant that is metro accessible and in North Arlington. Joni noted that the DPT buys supplies for cleaning and office supplies, and has the greatest number of volunteer hours. Eva moved to increase the amount per person for the DPT appreciation dinner to up to \$75, if the actual dinner is less, then the actual value of the dinner would be used. David seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VII. Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 PM.