

MINUTES
Friends of the Brooks Library Annual meeting
January 25, 2021, 3-5 pm via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: Bob Hickey, Dan Herman, Jerry Brong, Patty Erickson, Julia Stringfellow, Ronda Patrick, Rafael Cordova, Rebecca Lubas, Andy Piacsek, Gary Bartlett, J'aime, Lisa Norris, Diane Huckabay

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:02
 - 1.1. Approval of September meeting minutes: Approved unanimously.
 - 1.2. Additions or corrections to agenda: NONE
2. Officer and Committee (brief) Reports
 - 2.1. President – Bob Hickey. Bob proposed the following resolution:

“All FOBL funding must, at least partially, support activities held within the Brooks Library.”

Dan made a motion to approve the resolution; Jerry seconded. Discussion: The Board sought clarification of what sorts of purchases it could if the resolution passes. Rebecca suggested that the library (in the future) replace microfilm and fiche with electronic data, which would allow the removal of heavy shelving and thus open up space. The FOBL endowment could then be used to help purchase Steelscape “media:scape” furniture suites which serve both as ideal meeting spaces for small groups and as charging stations for laptops, etc. See <https://www.designfarm.com.au/products/mediascape-lounge-with-hood/> The Board’s consensus was that future purchases—if the resolution passes—will be considered on a case-by-case basis to assess whether they will serve students in the Brooks Library building. Lisa then asked whether future Lions Rock books would be suitable for funding. Consensus was “yes” so long as the event is held in the Brooks Library building. Bob clarified that the resolution would apply to both endowment and discretionary fund.

RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 2.2. Vice President – Andy Piacsek: Nothing to report.
 - 2.3. Treasurer – Ronda Patrick: Ronda reported the good news that the endowment has earned some \$48,000 in interest, raising the endowment’s capital from \$225,000 to \$272,000. FOBL also holds \$21,000 in its discretionary project budget, thanks partly to minimal expenditures over the past year (the only three expenditures were about \$600 for pizza feeds, \$300 for Lion’s Rock books, and another \$300 or so for newsletter mailing). FOBL also received a \$2200 contribution from retired Library faculty member Bob Jones.
 - 2.4. Webmaster update – Gary Bartlett: **Our FOBL webpage is still missing biographical blurbs for Kathy Matlin and Erica Sanford.**
 - 2.5. Outreach - Maureen Rust. Rebecca reported in Maureen’s absence. The library’s virtual events have been successful and timely. Rebecca hopes, however, to raise attendance. Some future events include Cultural Conversations; Veterans Book Club; and a Collections Chat w/ Chong Eun Ahn. **Rebecca asked Board members to steer students toward events.**
3. Board membership. Bob reported on which Board members terms are nearing completion and asked those who are not term-limited whether they intend to serve again. The following Board members

will not be serving another term: J'aime Wells, Lisa Norris, and Diane Huckabay. The Board thanks them all for their service. Kathy Matlin might also be among those who won't serve another term, though she wasn't present to say one way or the other. **Bob then asked Board members to suggest new possible members, particularly those drawn from the community (as opposed to the university).**

4. Dean's Report - Rebecca Lubas: Continuing to operate as safety allows. First two weeks of winter quarter were all online. Library reopened Jan. 19. In-person classes were held in library in fall; went very well with social distancing. In-person study halls still held on 4th floor. Staff at centers have been great asset for virtual reference services (though libraries at centers closed). Archives and Special Collections have acquired exciting new collection: the Amos Smith diary, which chronicles life in Ellensburg in 1894. Julia Stringfellow is scanning the diary as a pdf while another staff member is transcribing it. Both pdf and transcription will be on ScholarWorks. Jerry suggested that the library share the news of the diary with the Alumni Association. Rebecca also reported that the Archives holds the records of the old state normal school (CWU's institutional parent).

5. Fundraising initiatives

- 5.1. THERE WILL BE NO BOOK SALE THIS SPRING. However, we have a good stock of books for next November. Dan proposed the following motion:

“Board members helping organize next year's book sale should set aside volumes that might be worth selling online for a larger return on investment than the annual sale will produce.”

Andy seconded the proposed resolution.

Discussion: **Dan agreed to list such books on his own Amazon seller account, then make a check out to FOBL for the proceeds, minus shipping and Amazon's cut. Andy said he would help with the project.** This would be a sort of pilot project (Dan suggests listing perhaps 10-15 books).

RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Andy then suggested that the Board give the book sale more publicity and perhaps extend the sale for an additional day or two. Our last sale was held over a 3-day period. Gary suggested that we leave the sale at 3 days but do more advertising. Ian wondered whether we can accept debit or credit cards. Rafael suggested using Venmo or CashApp or SquareSpace to permit credit card purchases. However, it seems we need a bank account to use such services, which would involve significant paperwork. **Ian will investigate whether it is possible to allow students to use Connection cards and/or credit cards/debit cards.**

Bob also discussed the state of affairs of the FOBL's collection of sale books in the back room of the library. **Board members should drop by library to organize books.** Shelves are already labeled from last year's sale. We can write new labels for books that don't fit into existing categories.

6. Other items:

- 6.1. Bob and Rafael discussed Rafael's idea putting FOBL “stickers” (or piece of paper) w/ QR code and on the free pizzas we give away. Could print out a sort of FOBL business card on a quarter page and attach to pizza box w/ tape. Bob suggested that the card say “this pizza

brought to you by FOBL.” Gary and others discussed the possibility of tracking visitors to the FOBL website, partly to assess whether putting cards on pizza boxes creates interest.

- 6.2. Announcement of upcoming Library online Author Talk. On Thursday, Feb. 18, from 4:00 to 5:00, Dan Herman will read from and discuss his Western novel, *The Feudist* (Texas Christian University Press, 2020). The story’s protagonist is an aging rancher who recalls his experiences as observer and participant in Arizona’s so-called Pleasant Valley War of the 1880s. The novel examines some of the flamboyant participants in the feud while offering insight into the social, economic, and environmental context. Dan crafted the novel from odds and ends he uncovered while conducting research for his historical monograph, *Hell on the Range* (Yale University Press, 2010). <https://cwu.libcal.com/event/7411637>
 - 6.3. Announcing the James E. Brooks/Patricia J. Cutright Scholarship endowment. This new scholarship is intended for CWU students enrolled in Library or LIS programs. Former dean Cutright and former president Brooks raised money for the scholarship from the annual library galas. The library now seeks to raise additional funds (which two large donors will match up to \$20,000 total) for the endowment, which must reach \$25,000 to be permanently maintained by the CWU Foundation. **Contact Traci Goff, Director of Foundation Relations (Traci.Goff@cwu.edu), if interested in the scholarship, or in contributing to the endowment.**
 - 6.4. Membership. Bob sought volunteers for a subcommittee to examine whether or not there should be “membership” in the FOBL. In the past, FOBL offered “membership” to members of the community, who received a library card in exchange for donations. Bob wonders whether we should continue to give library cards for donations/membership (comparable to NPR giving a tote bag to “members” who make a donation), or should we pursue some other sort of fundraising/awareness campaign. Bob also suggested perhaps requiring Board members to be responsible for a certain annual amount of fundraising, which each Board member could achieve by getting others to donate, or by contributing a certain number of books for the sale, etc. Gary wondered whether there is a list of current members (here not meaning Board members, but members of the FOBL more broadly). Ronda reported that the Foundation has such a list (with about 300 names on it), though it has not been updated (since it was created 3-4 years ago) to subtract members who have moved or died. Bob suggested that the FOBL could offer members a deal: if a community member donated \$100, she/he/they would be allowed to get free books at the annual book sale. **Those who volunteered to serve on the subcommittee were Bob, Patti, Rafael, and Ian.** The subcommittee will talk to Foundation, deans, etc., and report back to the Board during the spring meeting. **The subcommittee should come to the Board with specific recommendations to vote on prior to the next meeting.**
7. 2021 future meeting schedule:
 - Spring meeting: Monday, April 19, 2021**
 - Summer meeting: Monday, June 7, 2021.**