

MINUTES
Friends of the Brooks Library Annual (Zoom) meeting
April 19, 2021, 3-5 pm via Zoom

- I. Call to order (Bob says we've got us a party)
 - a. **Attendance:** Bob Hickey; Dan Herman; Andy Piacsek; Kathy Matlin; Ronda Patrick; Gary Bartlett; J'aime Wells; Jerry Brong; Lisa Norris; Rebecca Lubas; Maureen Rust; Julia Stringfellow
 - b. Approval of January meeting minutes: Approved.
 - c. Additions or corrections to agenda: Agenda unanimously approved.
- II. Officer and Committee (brief) Reports
 - a. President – Bob Hickey:
 - i. Follow-up: subcommittee (Bob, Patti, Ian, Gerry, and Rafe): Met a number of times and talked about board member duties and what to do about “non-board members”.
 1. General Membership.
 - a. At the moment (and for the past few years) this really hasn't been active, either for board members or the more general public.
 - b. Consensus was that there was no point to reviving it unless the Friends start fundraising for something very specific (beyond just the library foundation account). The subcommittee felt that the FOBL mission was just too broad for community fundraising (and growing general friends membership). Only benefit to being a non-board friend is that you get to renew books. This was not seen as a significant benefit.
 - c. At the moment, we should leave the constitution as is (on this issue) and see how things go in the future.
 2. Duties of board members:
 - a. The subcommittee made these suggestions viz. duties of board members:
 - i. We should not require annual donations but should encourage them.
 - ii. We recommend volunteer hours beyond attending meetings at approximately 10 hours/year (book sale, sorting, pizza feeds, and other events).
 - iii. We should tighten up constitution language regarding reasons for dismissal from the board. These revisions appear in the new draft constitution presented to board members.
 - iv. The board president/officers should be more proactive in “assigning” duties based on members' interests.
 3. Proposed revisions to the constitution. See attached. To be voted on during the June Annual Meeting.
 4. Other items:
 - a. Jerry notes that sponsoring more events (e.g., author talks) would help bring people to the library.

b. Other ideas:

- i. We could be more proactive about spending money. In short, the board could better define what we want to spend our money on – which could also lead to fundraising opportunities. This would be very different than the current/past method, which is to wait for requests from the library, then act upon them.
- ii. A better focus could lead to better fundraising.

- b. Vice President – Andy Piacsek: No emails to the Friends since Oct. 2020.
- c. Treasurer – Ronda Patrick: Renewed the FOBL web domain; no other report beyond what's in the financial report sent by email. Basic expenses were pizza feed and small cost for newsletter printing. Rebecca noted that a set of newsletters will go to library archives for posterity sake and may be given to potential donors touring library. Maureen notes we'll be paying for library's SOURCE scholarship.
- d. Webmaster update – Gary Bartlett. Pizza night caused website visits to double for two to three days (to 4 people per day) after. Still missing biographical blurbs from Kathy Matlin and Erica Sanford. Ronda notes that some photos should be updated, too.
- e. Outreach - Maureen Rust. Will be hosting "Research Smartz: Organizing Your Life" (tomorrow). These events can be esoteric (about using Zotero) or of broad interest. Also tomorrow (4/20/21) will be "At Home with Poetry: A Live Reading Celebrating National Poetry Month." This event will be with the state poet laureate, Rena Priest. Some CWU poets will also give readings. On April 22, event will be on open education resources ("low-cost solutions for student course materials"). Bob notes that publishing in open-access journals cost a lot of money. Rebecca notes, however, that OER materials are not necessarily journal articles. Rebecca would like to seek ways to pay for faculty funding to publish in OER journals. Rebecca notes that Maureen received grant from Am. Library Assoc's "Libraries Transform Communities" program (\$3000 grant which will be applied to cultural conversations). Cultural conversations involves member of E'burg community who came from another culture talking about what it's like to live in E'burg and U.S. All fall 2021 events will be virtual, but hope is that waffle and pizza nights will be held in library again.

- i. Lisa announces Lion Rock events <https://www.cwu.edu/english/lion-rock-visiting-writers-series> (these are the events for which FOL has bought books)
 1. Victoria Chang on May 4 and 5
 2. Paisley Rekdal May 24 and 25

III. Board membership

- a. 4 positions opening up for 21-24 terms. If you think of someone to nominate, let Bob know (so that he can invite that person or persons to our June meeting). Ronda notes that would like more members from the community as opposed to university. In past, FOL has purchased small gifts for those finishing their terms on board; asks for approval for doing this again. Jerry suggests that the "thank you" could take the form of thanking board members formally for specific funded FOL project.
- b. Suggestions for new member(s)?

IV. Dean's Report - Rebecca Lubas: Highlights success of transitioning library's programming to online environment. Virtual archives crawl went well, for example. Library serving both

students on and away from campus. Classes taught in Fishbowl and in Commons (which are big enough to accommodate social distancing). Rebecca praises diversification of collections and getting bread-and-butter items, e.g., electronic archives of *Seattle Times* back to its beginning with full-text search. Also *L.A. Times* (to add West Coast papers to East Coast), thus allowing library to clear out space where microfilm was kept. Also got archives of some electronic journals, including some titles that CWU didn't have previously, esp. education journals. Julia has just submitted grant proposal that would allow library to document region's history from 1930s-60s. Notes also that Washington State Normal School collection area is popular place to study and hang out. Jerry asks whether library seeks collections on aviation (to complement CWU's strong aviation program). Rebecca says few requests come from Aviation Dept, but Aviation does have library liaison. Also notes that Assoc. Dean was aviation major.

- a. Dan volunteers to write FOL column for upcoming newsletter, 350 words. Maureen will advise Dan on what to include. Goes out Oct. 1; is finalized in September; should include notice of our annual book sale, names of new members.

V. Fundraising initiatives

- a. Annual Book Sale
- b. Other thoughts/events? Looking for specific ideas.
 - i. Right now, we sponsor these activities:
 1. Book sale
 2. 3x Pizza giveaways
 3. SOURCE awards
 4. Sponsor books for Lyons Rock
 5. Could do browse and brews?

VI. Other items

- a. Pizza giveaway – have a FOTL sticker on each pizza box noting it came from us and a link to our site? Done at the winter quarter giveaway. Seemed successful in helping get the word out about the Friends.
- b. Other thoughts generated by the subcommittee:
 - i. One board member suggested reducing the size of the board. After discussion, the consensus was that we should retain the current size of the board, especially given that we recommend keeping general membership at its current inactive state.
 - ii. We should better advertise within the larger Kitco community that:
 1. Any community member can get a library card and use the facilities (post covid)
 2. Cool library events (for example, advertising our book sale at the November First Friday). Could be done with fliers, perhaps at a table (at First Friday). Daily Record (community calendar). Note: Bob's piece will appear in exhibition of local artists. Rebecca notes that events for now are online because Kittitas County was rolled back to Phase 2, but will rethink this as soon as feasible.
 3. Finally, there was interest in reviving the Jólábókaflóðið (<https://www.readitforward.com/essay/article/jolabokaflod-meet-favorite-new-holiday-tradition/>) idea for next Christmas. Could do this as book donation event. Ask attendees to bring at least 2 books

for gifts and donation to FOL. Could include chocolate, wine, beer, tea. Attendees would not only drop off books, but would take books.

This would be more a community event than a student event.

- iii. Another brilliant idea (from Ian or Patti, can't recall): Once the new president is on-campus, the Board (or a subset, more likely) should invite him to dinner and get him up to speed on what we're all about and cool stuff happening in the library. Getting on his radar cannot be a bad idea.
- iv. Finally, it was suggested that the friends occasionally get together at/for social events just because it would be fun. Ronda suggests we hold these get-togethers after our quarterly meetings.

2020-2021 meeting schedule

September 14, 2020 Fall Meeting

January 25, 2021 Winter retreat

April 19, 2021 Spring meeting

June 7, 2021 Annual meeting

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Gary Bartlett, 2018-2021 (webmaster)

Jerry Brong, 2019-2022

Patti Erickson, 2018-2021

Dan Herman, 2019-2022 (secretary)

Bob Hickey, 2017-2023 (President)

Diane Huckabay, 2018-2021 (final term)

Kathy Matlin, 2018-2021 (final term)

Ian Miller, 2017-2023

Lisa Norris, 2019-2021 (final term)

Ronda Brooks Patrick, 2019-2022 (treasurer)

Andy Piacsek, 2017-2023 (VP and past president)

Erica Sanford, 2017-2023

J'aime Wells, 2018-2021 (final term)

Rafael Cordova-Gamez (2021-2023) (finishing Sarah's term)

Rebecca Lubas (Dean of Libraries), ex officio

4 leaving the board after 20/21. Need replacements.