

FOTL Board Meeting 3/20/15

Friends of Tennessee Libraries Board of Directors met on Friday, March 20, 2015, at the Bellevue Branch of the Nashville Public Library System. The Meeting was Called To Order at 10:44AM by President Don Reynolds, after a tour of the new building. A Quorum was Present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gerald Beavers, Doreen Flash, Martha Gill, Larry Price, Don Reynolds, Susie Ries, Dwight Shepherd, Lynette Sloan, and William Sundquist.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT: Julie Webb.

Susie Ries made a **Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting as Submitted. MOTION CARRIED.**

Gerald Beavers made a **Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.**

There was a **discussion about recruiting more groups to join FOTL.** The question arose of how to identify non-member groups. Lynette Sloan offered the resources of the State Library & Archives database to help with that.

There was **discussion about joining the Amazon Smile program as a fundraiser for FOTL.** The concern was raised that this might conflict with local groups who were already taking part in the program or might be considering it. By general consensus, the Board **agreed not to pursue the issue as a fundraiser for FOTL but to encourage local groups to check into this program as a fundraiser for themselves.**

Martha Gill gave an **update on Facebook and the newsletter.** FOTL now has 739 fans on Facebook. Printed newsletter production is being scaled back to four times a year because of the growing popularity of electronic communication. Gill expressed a need to establish a succession plan for communications. There is also a need to search for better ways to communicate with the younger generations.

There was a brief update on plans for the Annual Meeting.

Beavers made a **Motion to Approve amendments to the Bylaws on Notice Requirements and Minutes of Meetings as Submitted. MOTION CARRIED.**

Division Reports are attached at the end of the Minutes.

There was a **report on a workshop to establish a new Friends group in Kingston.** This workshop used the newly developed Tool Kit and Sample bylaws. These materials are now available on the website.

There was a lunch break from 12:30 to 12:50.

There was **discussion about the Recognition Awards.** Doreen Flash reported that we have only received two nominations so far, and the deadline is approaching.

The **2015 Grants were discussed.** Grants Chair Dwight Shepherd recommended that recipients be: Advocacy-King Family Friends, Fundraising-Lobelville, and Membership-Putnam County. The **Recommendations were approved by consensus. The Board also approved by consensus including a provision in Grant Guidelines that after a group has won a Grant, they cannot submit that project again.**

There was **discussion on creating two categories for the Friend of the Year Award**. One that would be relative to libraries serving a population of 24,999 or less, and one relative to libraries serving populations of 25,000 or more. The Board was agreeable to this change. This will go to the TLA Awards Committee for a recommendation to the TLA Board.

The President **reviewed Accomplishments for 2014-15**. The group successfully completed or implemented most of the items on the list of possible activities created at the beginning of the year.

There was **discussion on the need to formulate a formal response from FOTL to the FCC ruling on Net Neutrality**. It was noted that TLA was also preparing a response on behalf of libraries in Tennessee. The Board agreed by consensus that our response would be: Since we regard Tennessee Public Libraries as the most democratic of institutions for offering free and equal access to computers, bridging the digital divide, Friends of Tennessee Libraries endorse net neutrality as a means to provide level access to the internet.

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:22PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwight W. Shepherd, Secretary

DIVISION REPORTS

Middle Division:

Houston County Public Library in Erin welcomes its new director, Robbie Huggins. Her email is librarydirector@peoplestel.net. They are preparing their summer reading program. The Friends of Houston County Library will hold a book sale and bake sale in April

The Millersville Public Library has a new library building under construction and is due to open in May. Several regional libraries and Friends groups, including the Friends of the Clarksville/Montgomery County Library, are donating books to Millersville.

The Clarksville/Montgomery County Public Library held a strategic planning retreat with members of the public on March 4, 2015. It was well attended with 43 participants, in spite of the threatening weather (An ice/snow storm hit later that afternoon.) Excellent feedback was obtained including much on the need for a branch library. The final strategic plan will be completed in April. This was a three month planning process and a one day retreat. It could be a good model for FOTL to use.

The Friends of the Clarksville/Montgomery County Public Library will hold their semi-annual book sale on April 23, 24, 25.

The Montgomery County Imagination Library has added approximately 3000 children to the rolls in the past year.

Cheatham County Library has a new fund raiser community fun project! It's called The Lego Club! Patrons are asked to donate to the Lego Club – a donation jar on the library desk. The proceeds are used to purchase Legos for a fun Saturday family event once a month. A theme is announced and families are teams that create a Lego project to reflect the theme. All projects are then displayed in the children's area of the library until the next month's team efforts are completed. It's a great way to make money – the donations exceed the cost of the Legos and it's a great way to build community by having families competing for a creative fun win.

The Annual Salad Luncheon fund raiser is scheduled for Friday May 8, 11am until? All Friends members make 3 or 4 large creative salads (broccoli, pea, ambrosia etc) and the whole community comes to purchase a yummy lunch. The Friends made \$1335 last year!

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Metro:

The Chattanooga Friends now has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Library System. They are making a donation to a new/revitalized reading area in the Children's Area. The Friends Book Sale is moving from the library to Hamilton Place Mall. The group is working on grant writing programs. Hamilton County has started a new program that will give all school children (25,000 kids) a library card. The Friends are working on a planned giving campaign with the Library Foundation.

Knoxville-Knox County Metro:

Author Events Committee has scheduled an event on March 12, 2015, with Dom Flemons, "The American Songster." The Knox County Friends are partnering with Library Society of UT Knoxville. On March 26, 2015, they will present a program with Candice McQueen, Tennessee Commissioner of Education. Partners for this program are Great Schools Partnership and many other groups .

The Used Book Sales Committee has scheduled Two-day events at selected branches, and a Four-day Annual Book Sale in a new venue (Knox County high school).

The Advocacy Committee is promoting the works of the Friends by speaking to neighborhood associations, and participating in Knoxville Neighborhood Conference March 7. They are also working on development of Talking Points for "Everyday Advocacy."

The Board Development Committee has begun scrutiny of standard operating procedures.

The Nominating Committee has sent a letter to members seeking input. They have also been conducting interviews of prospective board members.

Communications Committee is producing the following publications: Friendsider weekly electronic newsletter to members of the board and committee chairs, Friends Heart KCPL monthly electronic newsletter to all members, potential members, government officials, partners, and Best of Friends printed or emailed newsletter three times a year. They also maintain the website: knoxfriends.org. They are also making the Friends presence known through social media, through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linked In, and Pinterest.

The Knox County Friends are also supporting the Knox County Public Library Foundation in efforts to raising \$600,000 to digitize the Knoxville News Sentinel from 1929-1990.

Nashville-Davidson County Metro:

The Friends have just finished updating their bylaws. They have a new executive committee and operating board.

The Nashville Public Library has included the request in the Library's FY 2015-2016 budget for funding to restore branch hours. Nashville's economy is much improved and we are optimistic that we will be able to open some if not all 20 branches on Fridays. The past two years Nashville Metro Council has allocated significant funding to Nashville Public Library for building upgrades and renovations. At any given time we have least one branch closed for extensive renovations.

State Library & Archives:

The newly revised State Standards for Libraries is moving forward.