Friends of The Seattle Public Library

1941 – 2019

78th Annual Meeting

Oct. 20, 2019

Central Library

Action Items
ACTION: The annual meeting minutes from Oct. 21, 2018, was unanimously approved.
ACTION: The slate of officers presented to membership was unanimously approved.
ACTION: The current trustee up for re-election was unanimously approved by membership.
ACTION: The slate of new board trustees to be elected to the board to serve 3-year terms, was unanimously approved by membership.

Attendance
Twenty-nine members attended, including current and former board members, Friends’ members, volunteers, and Library staff.

Call to Order and Welcome
Board president Stephen Griggs called the business meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. and welcomed members to the 78th annual Friends’ meeting. Griggs acknowledged and thanked Friends’ staff for all their hard work and support and thanked outgoing board member Eric Sorlien who attended the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report
Board trustee Carmen Bendixen presented the nominations for board officers to membership. Officers elected, will serve until the Friends’ 2020 Annual Meeting.
President: Miss Beck Hallmann
Vice President: Kathy Humphrey
Secretary: Sue Baird
Treasurer: Julie Sandygren
ACTION: The slate of officers presented to membership was unanimously approved.

Board trustee Carmen Bendixen presented current trustees that are up for re-election:
Sue Baird (3-year term)
ACTION: The current trustee up for re-election was unanimously approved by membership.

Board trustee Carmen Bendixen presented the slate of new board trustees to be elected to the board for 3-year terms:
Linda Holden Givens
Laurie Hooper
Jacques Imperial
Kim Love
Erica Norris
Amy VanderZanden

ACTION: The slate of new board trustees to be elected to the board to serve 3-year terms, was unanimously approved by membership.

**Feature Presentation**

Board president Steve Griggs introduced Susanna Ryan, author and illustrator of “Seattle Walk Report, An Illustrated Walking Tour through 23 Seattle Neighborhoods.” Ryan, a Library employee spoke highly of the Friends’ organization and mentioned she had fond memories about going to the Friends’ book sale when it was at Magnuson Park. Ryan shared how she started chronicling her urban walks on Instagram, under the handle @seattlewalkreport and how, from there, her book was created and published. Ryan described a few of her walks that were in the book, and graciously answered a lot of questions from the audience.

**President’s Report**

Board president Stephen Griggs thanked Susanna Ryan for her time and enthusiasm for the work the Friends’ do. Griggs went on to give the following highlights of the past year:

- The Friends will be hosting a fundraising event at Lagunita’s Brewery tomorrow evening, as part of the Library’s Booktoberfest program. Everyone’s invited!
- The Better Book sale is from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9 at North Seattle College.
- The Friends were invited for the first time ever to host a booth at the renown Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair.
- A very successful cookbook sale was held at Tavolàta Capitol Hill.
- Close to 12,000 attendees came to the HUGE Book Sale in March at Seattle Center. Revenue from the sale came to $183,000. Griggs thanked the hundreds of volunteers used at the big sale and see the organization as an important part of supporting literacy in the Seattle community.
- The FriendShop continues to be successful with great inventory including a new reflective tote bag designed by Library employees. Friends’ members receive a 15% discount in the shop.

**Executive Director and Chief Librarian’s Report**

Executive Director and Chief Librarian Marcellus Turner thanked the Friends’ Board for their efforts over the past year noting that the Library would not be what it is today without the support of the Friends. Turner enjoys seeing Susanna’s success with her book “Seattle Walk Report,” as well as with other very talented Library staff. Turner briefed the audience on current SPL events and happenings, sharing the following:

- Turner thanked the Friends for its support of the Library levy and was grateful it passed so the Library can provide necessary services and programs to the community.
- Thanks to the levy’s passage, Library staff will implement two new policies: 1) Sunday extra hours, and 2) Elimination of library fines.
- The 2020 Seattle Reads selection is “There There,” by Tommy Orange.
- The Library recently purchased property in South Seattle. The building will be used to store grounds’ and facilities equipment as well as provide secure parking for Library trucks. With three seismic retrofits starting next year, the new building will also be needed to store furniture and equipment while the renovations are being completed.
- Turner talked about the great work the city is doing around equity and is proud that the Library is part of that effort.
- The Library celebrated 100 years of the Summer of Learning Program this year. Amy Twito, program lead, is on medical leave but a final report will be made to the Friends’ Board when available.

**Grant Presentation**

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Friends’ board president Steve Griggs presented a check for $25,000 to Executive Director and Chief Librarian Marcellus Turner for the following 2020 programs and initiatives:

- The purchase of new stanchions around the Friendshop to provide marketing opportunities and increased security.
- To archive and digitize the Rev. Dr. Samuel Berry McKinney collection.
- To laminate the Library's rare map collection for protection and usability.
- To archive and digitize a special Seattle Room collection, helping preserve Seattle's history.

Treasurer’s Report
Board treasurer Julie Sandygren reviewed the Friends’ 2018 financial report noting that the 2018 summary is compared to 2017. Sandygren pointed out that due to losing the lease at the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library for the Friends’ book sale program, operating expenses increased due to the move to a new facility and a substantial increase in monthly rent. Due to these increases, operating contracts with the Library have been suspended for 2.5 years. Compared to 2017, Book Sale revenue in 2018 has increased although the program’s ecommerce revenue has decreased. The FriendShop sales showed a slight decrease but overall, sales were strong. The Friends’ gave the Library a total of $56,100 in grant support and another $27,352 in support through its other programs.

Friend of the Year Award
Friends board trustee Carmen Bendixen awarded the 2018 “Friend of the Year” award to two volunteers, Lizzy Stellato, and Jonathan Bregman. Stellato, a volunteer with the Friends’ advocacy committee was indispensable in her efforts to help pass the library levy. Bregman, a long-time volunteer for the Book Sale Program not only works once a week at the sorting facility but spends hours of volunteer time at the community sales. Both volunteers were nominated by their peers and are very much appreciated by the Friends’ organization.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment
Board trustee Carmen Bendixen thanks outgoing board president Steve Griggs for his leadership. Griggs welcomed new board president Beck Hallmann.

Meeting adjourned: 3:33p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Alice Springer, FOSPL Administrative Assistant
Sue Baird, FOSPL Secretary