

Friends of Georgia Libraries

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Friends of Georgia Libraries was called to order at 12:00 PM on October 21, 2016 at the McDonough Public Library by President Dan Aldridge.

Present

Dan Aldridge, Beth Ratliff, Cara Richardson, Kathy Ames, Rita Spisak, George Tuttle, Wendy Cornelison-GPLS Liaison, Lorene Flanders and Gordon Baker

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as distributed via email.

Special Topic Q and A with guest Gordon Baker

Merger of FOGL with GLA division Georgia Library Trustees, Friends, and Advocates Association

Gordon Baker gave a quick history of the GLA division and the origin of FOGL. Several questions were asked about the merger.

There are several benefits for both groups if a merger were to take place. FOGL would become a division of GLA and be able to ask for program dollars to help with a shortfall in FOGLs current funds. The president of FOGL would have a vote on the GLA board. FOGL's reach would be extended for more exposure. FOGL would have access to GLA's database and technology services such as renewal notices and list serve. Possibility of FOGL awards to be presented at the Georgia Libraries Conference as well as the addition of preconference sessions added to the conference which focus on friends, trustees and advocates.

The current division Georgia Library Trustees, Friends, and Advocates Association is chaired by Gordon Baker and has approximately 30 members. Next year, Rita Spisak will be the chair and Beth Ratliff will be the chair elect, so currently there is a FOGL presence in this group.

There would need to be a change of the bylaws of both groups for integration to be successful. Both sides would need to meet and come to agreement. There would be no change in leadership in FOGL between regular elections. FOGL would retain its current treasury and members of the GLA division would pay dues to FOGL. Questions were raised about the whether or not FOGL would be able to retain its unique perspective if it were to merge with a group that is made up of staff. Gordon stated that the current division is mostly trustees, retired staff and friends' members.

The decision was made to continue discussion on this matter with a vote on whether or not to pursue a merger forthcoming at the next meeting.

Treasurers Report

Keith emailed the treasurers report showing a balance of 1304.13 as of October. No deposits and no withdrawals.

Old Business

Author Reception at COMO was a huge success. A card was signed and mailed to Beth McIntyre for her work in organization of the event. FOGL contributed \$500.00 to the reception. FOGL hopes to participate more in the future.

Prestige License Plates- Dan reported that the license plates would be \$3.00 each for 250 plates and a set-up fee of \$35 dollars. The plate design and wording will be mailed to the board members for consideration. General graphic would be a person holding a book with "I support the library" on the cover. Colors would be black and white for easy readability. FOGL could sell the plates to Friends groups for \$5.00 and they, in turn, would sell for whatever amount they wanted as a fundraiser.

The summer survey resulted in 13 groups requesting help. Dan emailed them for clarification if there was a specific need or did they want a visit. Dan will visit Chattooga group.

The blog is up and running and in need of articles or events. Please send any information you would like posted to Fogblog@gmail.com

New Business

Dan suggested the newsletter be started once again. Beth can do this with help from others. This newsletter can be sent via mail chimp and the list serve and available on the website and blog and other social media.

The concept of the moveable feast is on hold until FOGL is more established within the state Friends groups and more financial able to hold these events.

Beth will handle secretarial paperwork, including renewal letters, correspondence and forms. Wendy offered to also be a storage option for any forms so there are duplicates in several places. If you currently have copies of FOGL documents and forms that need to be computerized, please send them to Beth either in the mail or electronically.

It was suggested that perhaps FOGL should procure corporate sponsorship to aid with raising funds for grants, awards, and workshops.

Website suggestions from COMO and meeting: Simplify, more frequent updates, list GPLS events on our site, "how to articles" concerning Friends groups more easily available, examples of bylaws, order

of steps to starting a friends group i.e. a flowchart. More photos. George will get with Roy at GPLS to see about changes to format.

Annual Meeting

The suggestion was made the annual meeting be held at Georgia Center for the Book in DeKalb.

Speaker suggestion: United for Libraries President and possibly an author. Dan will contact venue to check April dates.

GLA Midwinter Conference will be December 14 and 15 at Clayton State University.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Dan Aldridge. The next general meeting will be at 12:00 PM at the Georgia Public Library Services on November 18, 2016

Minutes submitted by: Beth Ratliff