

The March 18th, 2009 meeting of the St. Cloud Friends of the Library was called to order by President Jo Weis at the new library. Present at the 5:30 meeting:

Libby Brunsvold	Shirley Lafler sec.	Mike Garrity
Steve Engles	Joanne Kudrna v.p.	Karla Kraft
Ingunn Sverrisdottir treas.	Beverly Pehler	
Verne Oleksowicz staff	Dick Jokinen	

Two of our new board members were in attendance and we all introduced ourselves. Verne O. then gave us some background on Great River Regional Library, which is a consolidated system, one of twelve in the state. It encompasses six counties. GRRL is responsible for the staff, materials, programming, and customer services. The city of St. Cloud is responsible for the building—heat, electricity, etc. The GRRL Board has fifteen members. There is a separate St. Cloud board to deal with building issues. There is no double taxation. The counties fund for the above named components, and the city taxes maintain the building. There are some state funds. All staff are GRRL employees. Friends of the Library contributions supplement library needs, especially things that don't fit well into operating budgets. The annual book sale used to bring in \$4,000-5,000, but got to be a great deal of work. The bookstore was then started, with proceeds to be split between the Friends and GRRL.

The secretary's report was then read and approved; Bev P. moved approval and Mike M. seconded. The treasurer's report was approved; Dick J. making the motion and Joanne K. seconding.

The president called for additional agenda items. Dick J. wished to add two items, as did the secretary.

The president then reviewed the 2008 financial statement, as follows: the \$703.00 in miscellaneous reimbursements (by the previous treasurer) have receipts, but the accountant did not itemize them. The memberships in professional organizations include the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Association. These memberships allow the staff to attend events and meetings and to keep up on downtown people and plans. The Friends of the Library also belongs to the Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF). Printing expenses were for the grand opening and the bookstore. Bookstore purchases were for mugs, calendars, and tote bags. The liquor license was for the chair auction at the grand opening and was purchased by us because only we could legally do it. This money was returned to us by the capital campaign. The advertising expenses are not all accounted for. Several of these expenses will not occur again.

An extended discussion of the 2009 budget followed. In the past, our budget was prepared for us by GRRL and we had very few expenses. Two points mentioned were that domain names will have to be budgeted for, and that these names "need work." Inserts in newsletters add greatly to printing costs, but are sometimes necessary. New board member Joanne K., who has financial/budgeting experience, volunteered to help Ingunn S. with the 2009 budget. The budget, for now, remains a work in progress.

As an aside, our new president says that our original articles of incorporation have not been located, and could be in large scrapbooks in our work/storage room.

Dick J. reports that Bob Lombard is building a new drop box (or "honor box") for us. It will be larger in all dimensions than the current one, but installed in the same place. The purpose of

this box is so that customers can pay when no one is running the bookstore. The cost, Dick says, should not be more than \$150.00. The question arose: Should we put the old box somewhere in the vicinity of the desk because customers expect to pay at the desk? The question was tabled for further thought. Joanne K. moved that we fund this. Steve E. seconded, and the motion was passed.

Dick further stated that he has been given brat sale dates by Coburns and will be calling for volunteers. The dates are April 24 and 25.

Dick also suggested that we try to move some of our slow to sell books by offering them free for a can of food for one of the local food shelves. He suggests Place of Hope.

The secretary wished to say that she will send the minutes to members via e-mail attachments, if this meets with the approval of the board members. The board expressed approval; no motion was deemed necessary.

The president mentioned the new bookstore pricing and sorting system, whereby Betty and Sara(h) Stueve will sort only and bookstore volunteers will price. The Stueves will be GRRL volunteers. Verne O. and Jo W. felt this would be a good situation for both GRRL and Friends, but there was some opposition in the board. It is felt that items bought by the Stueves should be priced by the bookstore volunteers, as everything else is going to be.

The meeting was adjourned.