

The September 9, 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 5:35 meeting:

Jo Weis pres.	Shirley Lafler sec.	Mike Garrity
Ingunn Sverrisdottir treas	Karla Kraft staff	Steve Engels
Dick Jokinen.	Diane Vosen guest/staff	
Rose Ford	Libby Brunsvold	
Joanne Kudrna (v.p.)		
Sarah Gewirtz (ex officio) Attended late with new baby Miles!		
Absent were: David Malone, Beverly Pehler		

The president asked for additional agenda items. Rose Ford indicated she would like to discuss a radio and a stepstool for the bookstore. These were ultimately not taken up due to time constraints.

Diane Vosen gave us copies of the GRRL annual report (2008) and discussed the staff restructuring (GRRL Board approved). The position of deputy director has been eliminated. A patron services coordinator, a programming specialist, and two regional supervisor will be added. Six new positions. Present staff are applying and interviewing for those jobs. A consultant has called GRRL “management top-heavy.”

The second phase of restructuring is the “clustering” of branch managers. This is being studied. The GRRL Board will begin a fundraising campaign this fall.

The secretary’s report was read and approved, Joanne K. moving approval. Dick J. seconded. The treasurer’s reports (May through August) were read and approved, Joanne K. moving approval and Dick J. seconding. The treasurer noted the beneficial effect (on the bank account) of both the brat sale and the book sale.

Discussion of Bookstore Committee report.

There was a discussion on giving free book marks with bookstore purchases. A motion to spend \$100.00 on 500 bookmarks was entertained, introduced by Joanne K. and seconded by Dick J. The motion was approved. The bookmarks would be black and white, and if ordered in small numbers could sometimes be used to advertise upcoming events. They would also list our membership dues and to that end the membership committee proposes the following dues categories:

Individuals -----\$15.00 a year
Family -----\$25.00 a year
Senior/Student -\$10.00 a year

There will be an additional line for donations. Libby B. made a motion to approve these dues, Steve E. seconding. The motion was approved.

Karla Kraft reported on the summer reading activities, funded by the Friends, and showed the small gifts given to the participants who completed the programs. She detailed the number of participants in each program. She indicated that the library will be holding an open public meeting on the 16th of September (this month) from 6-8 p.m. so that the public can comment on various aspects of library operations. On October 14, 15, and 16, the Minnesota Library Association will be having their convention in St. Cloud, and will have a dessert reception in the library on the 15th. Friends may wish to help fund or to help with hosting. Through Karla, Susan Dubin from the Chamber Music Society asks for \$250.00 to help fund a concert at the library January 30th of next year. Action will be taken nearer the date.

Payment of dues to the Chamber of Commerce for both the GRRL and the St. Cloud library in the amount of \$423.00 was authorized, Dick J. making the motion and Rose Ford seconding. The motion carried.

Due to time constraints on our meeting room, the additional agenda items, much of the membership committee business, and designation of grants for the remainder of 2009 were not taken up. A date for the newsletter was not set.

The president announced that Steve E., Dave M., Mike G., Ingunn S., and Dick J. will return to the board for two year terms. The secretary will be leaving the board.

Libby B. moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Joanne K. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on October 14, 2009

NEW BUSINESS

The board discussed ways to increase membership, which has been declining in recent years. Volunteers could give out membership forms in the bookstore. We could give new members coupons for, say, \$3.00 worth of books in the store. Beverly P. volunteered to call old members who have not renewed. Old membership lists will have to be consulted. Libby b. and David M. will form a committee to discuss ideas for increasing membership. Businesses will not be approached, on Verne O's advice. A final idea discussed was setting up a membership sign-up table in the bookstore, one Saturday a month, starting in September.

The Board also discussed the annual meeting. We are required by law to have one. Can we increase attendance? Should we have a speaker? Could we offer one-half off bookstore prices to people who attend? Kimball, Big Lake, and Annandale have had success with ticketed author events for their annual meetings. Our meeting at the library can only be a fundraiser, if it benefits the library. Author events have generally not been as successful here (Karla Kraft)

The president requested a motion to adjourn. Libby . so moved, David M. seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.