

Friends of the Library (FOL)
Minutes, February 27, 2015
Oviatt Library
Administrative Conference Room

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Gohstand at 10:03 a.m.

Present: Dean Mark Stover, Iris Caplan, Joyclyn Dunham, Bill Gaines, Bob Gohstand, Bernice Haber, Sigrid Hafner, Jim Parker, Luann Rocha.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as amended. A correction will be made: Hazel was mistakenly mentioned reporting work on the program committee that should have been attributed to Bernice.

Announcements:

There will be no FOL Board meeting in March.

The next FOL Board meeting will be April 17th at 10 a.m. at the Orange Grove Bistro. Bob made a change to the May meeting date: the new meeting date will be May 29th.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

The Oviatt award for Excellence in Non-Fiction.

Several titles for the award were suggested. The awards committee is hoping to take "excellence" out of the award title, as that is implied. Dean Stover noted several proposed titles, including the San Fernando Valley Award for Non-Fiction, and five or six variants of that, with some other titles having the Oviatt Friends of the Library in the title. Several titles were suggested with CSUN in the award title. Bob suggested that there could be two lines describing the title, one title and one subtitle further explaining the title. Jim suggested that starting the title of the award off with "San Fernando Valley" suggested the SFV, or some organization representing the SFV was making the award, not the FOL. Dean Stover is hoping that the title will be short and succinct.

Proposed Portable Book Stall:

Dean Stover has agreed to pay \$500 from an Oviatt fund, about half the cost of the project. Bob noted that we have not yet received sketches of the book stalls from the carpenter.

Docents for the Oviatt Library:

Dean Stover has started to talk with faculty and staff about an Oviatt Library docent program managed by the FOL. He reported that there was good support for the program from those he has spoken with. Docent programs are more popular at museums rather than libraries, although Cal Poly Pomona has a docent program in their library. Felicia Vertrees, a CSUN faculty member, has a lot of ideas, energy, and is currently writing a couple of book chapters on library volunteers. She is interested in participating in the project.

Dean Stover suggested that the new lobby layout is not conducive to security. One service that might be provided by docents is to be involved with issues when the Library's exit alarm goes off.

Bob asked that a committee be formed to study the docent issues. Bill Gaines suggested that if people are to volunteer, they need to know ahead of time what they might be doing.

Mark noted there is lots of art in the library, and most people do not know much about the art or the library's exhibits. This, too, might be one of the jobs a docent might perform.

Sigrid raised some issues related to the Arts Council. It was suggested that perhaps Arts Council members might serve as docents in the FOL program if tours of art and exhibits become an important docent task.

Board members discussed an earlier raised possibility, that students might also serve as docents. A potential problem is that they could not staff the book carts by themselves, because students per university policy, cannot handle money.

Bob, Bernice and Bill volunteered to serve on a docent committee. Dean Stover will ask Felicia Vertrees to serve on the committee, and will ask her if she can facilitate the meetings. Jim suggested other things that might be interesting on a tour: the book retrieval system, and special collections. Mark will ask Felicia if she is able to attend the FOL Board's April meeting to report what was discussed at the docent committee meeting and lead a discussion, and possibly a brain storming session, with the FOL Board at that April meeting.

A list of FOL members (and volunteers) street addresses are available. Many/most do not give us their e-mail addresses, even though all post office mailings to them specifically request their e-mail addresses. It is thought that many of the older FOL members perhaps do not have e-mail addresses.

Luann suggested that an article on docents be put in the newsletter. This has been the intent, but it is likely that the newsletter will be out before enough details are available on what the docent program might be.

A meeting place, room 214 of the Library, a coffee break room, might be used for docents. It was suggested that it would be good if we could get the docent program going by this Fall, 2015.

Committee Reports

Program Committee

Bernice said there were no recent developments. From the last meeting, it had been announced that Christina Rice, of the L.A. Public Library, will speak about women in the San Fernando Valley, with historical photos from the 40s and 50s. This event will be at the Orange Grove Bistro for lunch, April 17th, with a lunch for \$20. Our FOL meeting would be at 10 a.m. at the Bistro before the event. The event would be from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

Gift Book/Book Sale Committee

Vickie is still on leave. We are currently not taking gift books.

Volunteer Report

No report.

Newsletter Report

Jim Parker reported that he and Jim Dole have finished writing articles (about six) and Joyclyn is now putting the newsletter together.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.