

Friends of Boatwright Memorial Library
Executive Council
Minutes
October 28, 2014

Attendance:

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1. Meeting was called to order at 5:32. Kevin Butterfield, Librarian, is out on parental leave. Molly agreed to serve as this meeting's secretary. Members may read the financial and membership reports distributed with meeting agendas.
2. The movie *The Lunchbox* will be playing on November 7 and the Friends is sponsoring a reception prior to the film. Members of the Council are invited to participate and talk to people about the Friends.
3. In lieu of a December meeting, there will be two events to which the Council members are invited. First, the Council agreed to support a holiday lunch for the library staff as a token of appreciation for the work they continue to do in support of the University's mission. The second opportunity will be an orientation/holiday reception for the MRC. Paul Porterfield had suggested that given the renovation of the MRC, it might be nice for the Friends to be given a tour and see the new space. After some discussion, the Friends also indicated that this would be a good opportunity to invite Osher members to join us. Many of the Osher members receive BML privileges with their membership but may not be familiar with all the library offers. This would be a good way to build Friends membership as well as reach out to Osher members. Members of the Council were also encouraged to invite a friend to join them. Sheena will get with Bianca about dates and send emails out. The University will be responsible for catering these events.
4. Peple Lecturer has been found! Betty Ann Dillon announced that Elizabeth Brown Pryor, who has written and done some interesting historical research on Robert E. Lee has agreed to be the speaker. It was decided that if possible, she would be asked to come on Sunday, March 22nd. [This has since been confirmed.] It was also decided that we should ask President Ayers to speak or be part of a panel since this is his final year as President. [His schedule will not allow for this.]
5. There was discussion about the topic for the Annual Meeting. Sheena and Kevin had discussed a History of the Printed Books since the Library has been given both a printing press and book bindery. Both donors would be invited to come and talk about their gifts; one of the donors lives in Richmond.
6. Sheena has talked with the VCU Library Friends staff person and is hoping to speak with University Advancement about our relationship to them, what we are allowed to do and who our contact is with this group.
7. There was a brief budget discussion as there is about \$47,000 in the Friends budget. Given that Kevin states that the University provides adequate budget to support the ongoing Library operations, the Friends could continue to support other programming that interests the University community. Kevin has been asked for a wish-list of things he would like supported. Some funding may be used for the further renovation of the library.

Sheena raised the question about the intern position and what the status of that was. Special collections enhancement was also given as a possible place for Friends to contribute.

8. The meeting dates for November and December will change. The November meeting will be the film on the 7th; December's meeting will be the lunch and reception/orientation at the MRC. Following that, the Friends will meet every other month throughout the Spring.
9. Discussion ensued about the question of Dues. Several members mentioned that their dues were overdue. Levels of membership were discussed. It was decided to combine the Supporting and Sustaining levels at the \$100 level. Life, family, and individual levels would remain the same. Student level would remain the same; however, it could be extended to recent alums (5 or fewer years). Any ability to track recent alums would have to be made through Advancement. One opportunity however remains with Library's student assistants who are recent grads and with whom the Library has a relationship. Osher members are given one year's membership to the BML when they first join. Gold members have the BML membership privileges as part of their Osher membership, but other Osher levels must join separately. It was indicated that it might be advisable for the Friends to send Osher members reminder notices to join the Friends. It was also suggested that in future years the Dues be raised in small increments (they have not been raised in a number of years).
10. It is also suggested that we delineate more carefully what the benefits of the Friends' membership are; whom should people contact about joining the Friends and how should checks be made out? Also, what is the renewal cycle for membership?
11. Sheena will ask Bianca to mail out dates for the staff lunch and orientation to the MRC.
12. The Peple Lecture and Annual Meeting dates should be published now so that people could mark their calendars.
13. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Molly Slack