

**FRIENDS OF THE BROOKS LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

January 28, 2009, 2:30 p.m.

Present: Dale Comstock, Eleanor Trujillo, Robert Jones, James Nylander, Boris Kovalerchuk, Charles McGehee

The chair called the meeting to order.

The board decided to hold the annual spring meeting on April 2, Noon, at the Rodeo City Bar-B-Q. For the program, the chair will ask Hong Xiao, chair of Sociology, to give a presentation about her research on China.

After a lengthy discussion, the board decided to present changes in Articles II, IV, and V of the Friends' constitution to the annual meeting on April 2. (See attached.) It was noted in the change to Article IV that we have discussed the membership eligibility several times during the last three years, and that annual membership dues would require a lot of costly administrative work. Therefore, all those who donate to the organization will be considered members. The organization's Web master posts the names of these contributors on the Friends' Web site.

The chair reported that the annual book sale in November had resulted in proceeds of \$733.45, a decline of about \$500 from previous sales. Possible reasons for this decline are: the first day of the sale was held on election day, and students were noticeably absent; the weather was stormy; the public library had held a big book sale on the weekend preceding; the state of the economy is very bad. Eleanor reported that a decline in sales might also result from the new arrangement of books into categories which seems to deter buyers from browsing all shelves, the way they used to do. Beverly averred that perhaps this problem could be solved by better signage.

Charlie advocated strongly for finding a space on campus where we can display our inventory permanently and use it as a store where we can hold more frequent sales. One of his contacts claims that such is the best way to make significant amounts of money. Apart from the library, it was suggested that perhaps a room in the SURC could be made available. Beverly will check on the availability of space. She will also check with the Evergreen State College's library to determine whether and how its surplus books can be sold by its Friends.

Beverly also reported that the endowment's capital fund theoretically contains \$104,303.36. However, given the current stock market, the fund has suffered a loss on the earnings side of \$15,698.47. The spending account contains, \$2469.05. Beverly announced that this year she will pursue grant funding for the endowment fund.

Discussion concerning the endowment brought up the question of what's happening to current donations. Are they being invested in the market or in a safer account? Further, members of the Board wanted to know if the Foundation will be disbursing any monies to the library from our fund this year. There was also a discussion concerning the membership of the Foundation's board and whether or not certain members, who help to decided investment and disbursement policies might have a conflict of interest. Beverly will find out the answers to these questions.

In the course of the discussion, it was noted that at one time, the Friends' Board had entertained the idea of having an account at a local bank rather than with the Foundation. Previous Boards had decided that it is more advantageous to lodge the account with the Foundation. In a good economy, the returns are good, and the Board does not need to develop its own investment policies; the Friends also benefits from participating in the Foundation's charitable tax and postal status.

In the course of the discussion, Boris inquired about the library's weeding policies. Beverly assured him that the Brooks Library's policies require that departments be consulted concerning the titles of books to be sent to surplus. It was also noted that for electronic journals, the library participates in a consortium of universities and colleges in Washington State that avails us access to many more journals than we could afford to buy on our own.

The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by:

Beverly Heckart, Chair