

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES, KONA

F.O.L.K. ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 26, 2016

The 2016 annual meeting of the Friends of Library Kona was called to order on January 26,, 2016, at 10:04 a.m. On the Kailua Kona Library lanai by Vice President Marilyn Koschella in the excused absence of President Pamela Wang. She read a statement from President Wang extending greetings and warm remarks. Vice President Koschella next reported that the library will celebrate its Leap Year birthday on Saturday, February 27th, since the library is closed on Monday the 29th. The promotion of Denise Stromberg to head librarian was celebrated.

Shirley David read the minutes of the last annual meeting which were adopted without change. MSA

Vice President Koschella presented the proposed slate of new officers and Board members for 2016 and which was adopted. MSA. New Board members were introduced and welcomed.

Vice President Koschella remarked on the need for additional volunteers particularly returned books, community seed library and possible service on the Board.

Denise Stromberg discussed the summer reading program and reported on changes for this year including a program to "count the minutes you read".

Kipapa Kahelahela discussed the community seed library, now found in a library card catalog cabinet in the lobby. The community seed library is very popular and is being coordinated by Natalie Guerin. Seeds are from the University of Hawaii, other donors, and some purchased. There will be a series of meetings open to the public to discuss gardening issues of general interest. Information is posted on the FOLK Facebook page and the website.

Vice President Koschella reported on publicity efforts on behalf of the library.

Ken Guerra present the financial summary report on behalf of Treasurer Barbara Isley, absent because of pending knee surgery. Assets and reserves total \$48,877.39. Total 2015 income was \$48,587.65. Total expenses were \$52,954.23. Income from sales was \$22,500, from donations \$9604 , from membership \$3314.56. FOLK assistance to the library was \$27,244.64. Two scholarships of \$2000 each were awarded. Program expenses were \$3174.74, and miscellaneous administrative expenses were \$5334.85. The financials were approved. MSA

Marilyn Koschella displayed and presented the historical binder for 2015.

Bev Stehley announced she was turning over the Programs chair after eight years and Suzanne Dymtrenko will be taking over those duties. Upcoming programs were announced and will be posted on the calendar, monthly newsletter and website. Lynn Waterhouse continues to arrange for science programs, including a February 9 program on "Marine Debris" and a possible May program on astronomy.

Jennifer Kau'i Losalio, one of the scholarship recipients from last year, reported she will graduate this year in the Masters Degree program. She is particularly interested in working as a Young Adult Librarian. She is putting on a youth program in April to build solar ovens using small pizza boxes. She also is working with Kipapa Kahelahela to offer one-on-one help sessions for patrons wanting to use Overdrive for e-books.

Shirley David followed with a scholarship report. In addition to Jennifer, the other recipient was Robert Dahlke, a high school teacher at Kealakehe High School. Last year it was possible to award two scholarships because of a \$2000 gift to the program from an anonymous donor. The program is available to Library Science students in the University of Hawaii Masters Degree program. All recipients so far have been from the Big Island and most from West Hawaii.

Shirley David also reported the success of the "Friendly Bus" program, paid for by FOLK, which brings second graders to the library and showed examples of thank you reports some students had sent. She reported that the "Books Are Building Blocks" program has been suspended after six years but may be resumed in the future.

Vice President Koschella asked the Board officially to recognize and celebrate the appointment of Denise Stromberg as Head Librarian. Denise acknowledged the support and commented on her 25 years of service with the library, starting before the building actually opened. She expressed appreciation for the support of FOLK which has proven very valuable.

Old business: Ken Guerra reported on trends in the book sales. In 2013 in round numbers lanai sales were \$15,000, in 2014 \$14,500, and in 2015 \$12,100, the lowest since sales started seven years ago. Lobby sales, by contrast, have remained fairly steady: 2013 \$9900, 2014 \$9700, 2015 \$10,300. The totals for the three years in round numbers: 2013 \$25,000, 2014 \$24,200, 2015 \$22,500. The downward trend at least in part must be attributed to the increased interest in digital media, but the book sales remain a good source of income. They are heavily dependent on

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volunteers and, in particular, this year will probably see considerable attrition in the pit crew; it is hard for some to lift heavy boxes of books, so a new generation of sturdy volunteers will be needed. January 2016 lanai book sales, incidentally, were approximately \$1500; last year no month sales exceeded \$1200.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15. MSA *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,

ARNE WERCHICK
FOLK Board Secretary