

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES, KONA

F.O.L.K. BOARD MEETING MINUTES - April 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 by acting chair Suzanne Dmytrenko. Attending were Barbara Isley, Bev Stehley, Bev's guest Roma Johnson, Mardee Richardson, Lynn Waterhouse, Ken Guerra, Debra Dolsberry, and Arne Werchick. Librarians Denise Stromberg and Shelly Brown also attended.

The undersigned presented minutes of the February 21, 2017, meeting, previously circulated by e-mail, noting that -- among other changes and corrections -- a reference to the Hawaii County sign ordinance has also been added to answer the question which was raised regarding book sale signage. MSA Minutes of the March 21, 2017, meeting, also previously circulated by e-mail, were approved. MSA

Barbara Isley gives the treasurer report. Assets at the end of February are \$57,307.83 which includes an additional \$3000 contribution from the Nelsons. The Ameritrade account stands at \$35,562.17. Membership dues of \$436 were received in March alone.

Suzanne Dmytrenko reports on programs. Three this month: tonight a film History of Peace Corps; Saturday April 22nd Earth Day (solar panels presenter); Saturday April 29th Lynn Waterhouse presents Katryn Wiese, a lecturer from City College of San Francisco discussing lava. May 9th Mele'uhane, a Hawaiian music group performs. On June 3rd Tricia Gunberg lectures on numerology. Lynn Waterhouse adds that on May 23rd Carlos Alvarez, an astronomer from California, will lecture. Suzanne is still working on booking historian Boyd Bonds for the fall.

Suzanne reports problems with items on the F.O.L.K Google calendar being deleted unless marked as private; when open as public things mysteriously disappear. Lynn, who manages calendar access, will change the password and will also reduce the list of authorized people with access.

Bev Stehley reports on the book club. Today "Death Comes to the Fair," author Catherine Lloyd will be here. "In Paradise" next month. Books for Babies were delivered. Need to order about every two months. Barbara applied for a grant for Books for Babies from Wish You Well, expecting answer in June. Target only seems to be supporting things related to field trips; they support Friendly Bus. Book club will meet July and August, every month.

Ken Guerra reports Ways and Means. The April book sale generated income of \$1166. We have had four very good months over the \$1000 mark, ahead of last

year. The last sale also sold a lot of tote bags, posters, and other retail products. There is still a problem with sufficient volunteers for the sales; only three students reported for last sale but the date coincided with senior prom. May will be last book sale for the winter term so waiting to see if student response picks up. We have also lost several mainstay adult volunteers and will need to recruit for the fall. It has been decided to reward students with the cumulative hours, with the top five getting a \$25 Target gift card; we already have the gift cards for this term and for the second half of year. Eleanor Pearson was terrific in soliciting the cards. We won't know the final tally of hours until after the May sale, so Ken questions how to get the awards to the winners. After discussion it was decided to change the schedule to calculate the winners based on hours to date and invite them to come to the May sale to collect their award and be recognized. Thursday morning Hawaii County RSVP [Retired and Senior Volunteer Program] will visit to check on volunteer positions at the library; most of the people working in the pit are part of RSVP. Ken is also in contact with another person who may be able to fabricate a new display case for the lobby books as discussed at prior meetings; the cabinet maker examined the location last Saturday and will submit a bid. After examining the location last Saturday, Barbara Isley notes that lobby sales generated \$674 last month. The topic of purchasing mugs with the F.O.L.K. logo to offer for sale was raised, and there was a discussion of purpose of such retail items, whether to focus on getting name publicity for F.O.L.K. versus fund raising. It was decided we should prepare posters to publicize what F.O.L.K. has done with its funds over the last year. Mardee Richardson suggests planning over summer for a retail plan for next year. Ken extended special thanks to Mardee and others who have contributed a lot of time at book sales and is especially appreciative of the volunteers who have stayed around to help with closing.

Deb Dolsberry reports regarding outreach. She called YWAM and spoke with their librarian about taking free books which will be left after we cull the shelves; they already buy books when needed so are not interested in bulk donation. Ken notes we again will be doing a major purge after May sale. If possible we should get word to teachers who already get discounts at book sales that a volume of books will be available in bulk after May sale. It was decided to designate Saturday, May 20 from 8 - 11 for this purpose, keeping the pit garage door open; a couple of volunteers will be needed to give out books. Deb Dolsberry will work up quarter sheet brochures.

Mardee Richardson reports on membership. Currently we have 396 names on the F.O.L.K. roster, and of those 281 are in good standing. We have nine new members, six from the last book sale. Last month produced 18 renewals. No one checked "volunteer" box on back of application. We have one new sustaining member. A tracking log has been developed to record people who join at the the \$50 and above level. Denise Stromberg will notify Mardee as to titles of books in which plates are placed so thank you letters can be sent. Mardee will purge names from the membership list after a year of no response. There are presently 44 lifetime members from the period when such memberships were offered, perhaps 6 with no

current contact information.

It is reported that a Kona Family Literacy and Interaction Program brochure is to be inserted in Books for Babies bags, and a copy of the brochure was circulated.

Shelley Brown reports that the Kona Carpet bid for cleaning was \$648, while Eds Cleaning was \$825; she is already approved to spend up to \$700. She has tallied the results of public survey regarding expanding Kealakekua branch library hours and has met with the state librarian. Kealakekua will be adding ten more hours per week: Mon 10-5, Tues 11-5, Wed 12-7, Thur 11-5, Fri 11-5. She is awaiting union approval of new schedule for employees before publicizing, but hopes to keep a target date of June 1 to start.

Denise Stromberg reports "Count Week" is next week; she needs additional volunteers to fill a few more slots. She has filled the last staff opening: Penny is starting Friday next week. Custodian Gwen is retiring; Denise hopes the F.O.L.K. Board will acknowledge her great service; she here before this building opened and has been an integral part of services the library provides. June 30 is her retirement date. Bev Stehley suggests F.O.L.K. host a retirement party for her on the lanai, perhaps with a Friday 10:00 a.m. reception to invite her family, library employees, and the F.O.L.K. Board. Children's librarian Jen Losalio requests an appropriation for children's summer reading program not to exceed \$1000 subject to receipts; this goes for incentives, presenters, program materials, decorations, and promotion. MSA

Mardee Richardson raises the issue that some submissions for the web site contain typographical and grammatical errors. Recently the Peace Corps program ad had typos -- "Copr", for example -- but couldn't be changed because it arrived as .pdf/scanned. It was decided we will not make any major policy change but must tell submitters that F.O.L.K. will not publish their material if it contains errors. Board members in future are urged to review the entire newsletter when it is circulated in advance of publication to spot errors and not just limit ourselves to reviewing material we may have submitted.

Lynn Waterhouse discusses possible topics for science speakers for next year. She recommends Susan Jarvi re rat lungworm disease. She would like to find a water expert to talk about contamination of beaches on the Big Island. She is also considering a nutrition program, perhaps a speaker from Palamanui or connected with the Blue Zone Project. Ken Guerra reports hearing that local restaurants are refusing to stock local grown organic products because of rat lungworm risk; it is a very appropriate subject for a program. Lynn is also trying to book Keoki Stender, an expert on the northwest Hawaiian islands; Stender is in Oahu and reluctant; Lynn requests authorization to offer to pay his airfare instead of honorarium. MSA

Adjourned 10:45 a.m. Next meeting May 16 at 9:00 a.m. Your humble servant, the

undersigned, regrets he will be absent at that time and for the June meeting as well.

Respectfully submitted
ARNE WERCHICK
Secretary