

Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
April 18, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting was called to order by President Rhonda Braley at 4:34 PM with 26 people in attendance.

Minutes of the 2022 annual meeting were read by Secretary Vicki Edelnant. Minutes were approved as read (Sheryl McGovern/ Amy Frohardt-Schafer).

President Braley presented her report reviewing activities of the past year through an acronym:

F = Forty years: Anniversary donors were recognized by scrolling their names on the screen. They include: Jay and Kathy Agness, Robert and Rosemary Beach, Brad and Rhonda Braley, Steve and Gerry Chamberlin, Molly Cormaney, Sandra Delfs, Jan Dellinger, Susan Durnell, the Haferman Family, Anne Hoekstra, Robert and Katherine Martin, Marleta Matheson, Sheryl McGovern, Karen Mukai, Joanne Latta Reeves, Mary Schlicher, Janice Smuck, Ken Baughman and Leandra Sunseri, and David and Sharon Walker.

R = Reading: Thanks to book club leaders Barb Sanders (evening group, on line) and Barb and Larry Cardamon (morning group). In addition to Friends' usual support for story hours, the organization hosted a 40th anniversary book club. Books published in our founding year, 1982, were discussed; they included *Space* by James Michener, *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* by Anne Tyler, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *Schindler's List* by Thomas Keneally. The final discussion will be May 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM *The Silver Palate Cookbook* by Julee Russo et al. Thanks to Margaret Empie for organizing the series and to all the discussion leaders.

I = Independent: The Friends now has its own Google workspace, a new website, and a new email address so we will no longer have to bother library staff to update our information. The shared workspace allows the Board to share and archive documents easily.

E = Events: Friends participated in the summer reading kickoff carnival (SummerFest) and held an October membership drive.

N = Nook: Thanks to coordinators Alice Meyer, Linda Meier, Diane Thiessen and 40 plus volunteers for the excellent work they do in the Book Nook.

D = Desires, Dreams, Dolly Parton: Friends were able to make some dreams come true including the purchase of the Charlie Cart for food preparation for events. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library became a reality this year.

S = Success and Support: Through the Book Nook, Friends raised \$40,551.48, through membership and memorials \$12,617.57 from 160 members (an increase over the 132 previous year). We now have more than 400 followers to the Friends FaceBook page.

Braley thanked board members for their work this past year.

Retiring board members had books donated to the library in their honor:

- Mary Bozik (8 years, communication committee): *The Paris Daughters*
- Amy Frohardt-Shafer (9 years, communication committee) *The Complete Guide to National Parks of the US*

- Sheryl McGovern (on and off the board for years) *Photo Memory Quilts* and a photo in the co-lab
- Kay Thuesen (past president for 3 years, board member for 6 or 7 years) (not attending today as she's sailing in the Virgin Islands!) *The Wind Knows My Name*

Leandra Sunseri, on behalf of the nominating committee, presented a slate of 6 nominees for the Friends' Board for a 3-year tenure. She introduced each candidate with a short biography. The nominees are: Carol Brown Sarah Kreck Kellie Smith Beth Sulentic Diane Thiessen Chelsea Toppin Amy Frohardt-Schafer moved/Lou Weber seconded a motion to elect these nominees to the Board. The motion carried.

Sheryl McGovern recalled that while many people have supported the library and its staff over the years, two volunteers have stood out by making staff dreams come true. The Friends Board, with the approval of the library Director and the Board of Trustees, have named the conference room the Maelou Baxter and Sue Gael Doody Conference Room in their honor. Sue Doody spoke about how their interests complemented each other: her interest in supporting the library staff and Maelou's interest in literacy in the community.

Kelly Stern presented the Library Director's report:

Staffing

At their April 17 Standing Committee Meetings, City Council reviewed city departments' requests for new staff, including the full-time library assistant requested by the library. I shared the following information with them before they voted. After discussion, Council voted 4-3 to keep the full-time position in the proposed budget. Also included in the FY24 budget is changing the 2 part-time youth intern positions into permanent part-time library assistant positions, which will reduce the turnover rate for those positions, as intern pay was very low compared to other employers in the area. Also, our part-time teen librarian position will become full-time in FY24.

To see whether or not data supported CFPL staff's feeling that we have been understaffed for quite a while, I plotted our vacancies from the past three years, back to Jan. of 2020, on a calendar. I used the last date of employment for staff who left during that time and the starting date of their replacements. There were 23 staff members who resigned during the 38 months from Jan. 2020 until Feb. 2023--I plotted individual weeks, so these are not rounded up to whole months.

22 of the 23 resignations were part-time employees.

17.5 of the 38 months, we had one vacancy.

9 months of 38, we had two concurrent vacancies.

6 months of 38, we had three vacancies.

3.5 months of the 38, we had four vacancies.

2 months out of 38, we had no vacancies. This was January and February of 2020.

This does not include any sick leave or vacation time that reduced our staffing temporarily, and it also does not include seven staff members who were on extended FMLA leave during that time, most for the full 12 weeks (3 months) allowable.

I also calculated the amount of time CFPL managers spend hiring. Conservatively, we spend over 6% of our work time just reviewing applications and conducting interviews. If we added training new staff to that, it increases to 15% of our work time.

Branding

The library's branding project is scheduled to be completed this month, and the grand unveiling of our brand will tentatively happen at the May 3 Library Board of Trustees meeting.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library update

There are currently 2127 children registered, and 290 have graduated. We are applying for grants, as we began with enough funding only for the first two years of the program, and the five-year cycle of the program is estimated to cost over \$308,000. If you feel so inclined, we would very much appreciate it if you would encourage those you know to donate to the project.

Stern thanked the Friends for the Charlie Cart. She announced that a dumpling-making event will be held in May and the owner of Cottonwood Canyon will be doing a presentation in the fall.

The library staff intend to reach out to other local chefs as well.

President Braley thanked all those present for attending. Thanks to the social committee for providing snacks and beverages.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Edelnant, Secretary