

THE FRIENDS OF THE GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 25, 2024, 10 a.m.

PRESENT: Chuck Collins, President; Wayne Talbot, Past President; Mary Ouellette, Treasurer; Assistant Treasurer Connie Mayes; Kathy Yancy, Secretary; Directors Ricki McMillian; Carolyn McAndrew; Jody Patterson; Don Ballard; Josie Talbot; Mindy Klein; Dawn Sackal; Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Olmstead; and Library Director Sally Miculek. Karen Harrison attended as 2025 President Elect.

Call to Order: The annual membership meeting of the Friends took place on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 in the Hewlett Room. There were about 40 attendees. President Chuck Collins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, thanking them for giving of their time, talents, and treasure to help the organization succeed.

Library Director's Report: Library Director Sally Miculek highlighted the FOL's support for the library, beginning with the library's Long-Range Plan. Recognizing that use of the library is increasing, Sally and her team requested from FOL a sum of money to perform a professional study of how best to utilize the library's spaces and assets; the FOL provided \$100,000 for this study, with the City of Georgetown adding an additional \$25,000. Meetings with the architectural team are ongoing, to determine how the library might better serve our growing community in the 21st century. Community surveys are also available.

Sally also thanked the Friends for our donations to supplement the City budget: extra funds for streaming media (very popular with patrons), additional items for the book collections, and new furnishings and equipment (bookshelf for the Teen Space, booths for the Café, and new items in the Children's Area). The Friends also provide money for the Sunday music series, Hill Country Authors Series, and other adult programs – Sally voiced appreciation for this and mentioned how well attended these programs are.

One member inquired about the new City Center area planned for the space next door to the library, on the 9th Street side. The library staff believes that this project will allow more activities in the new space, especially outdoor events.

Bylaws Restatement: Chuck took the microphone to talk about the FOL maintaining our vitality and sustainability as the Georgetown community grows. He introduced Don Ballard, a board member who led a group in analyzing how the FOL's organizational documents might be updated and improved. A set of simplified Restated Bylaws was presented, that included clarifications to fix prior oversights. The visual format of the Bylaws was also improved for easier reference. The "restatement" was explained, and a motion to approve the Restated Bylaws was made and seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Secretary's Report: Kathy Yancy gave the Secretary's report, saying that the minutes of last year's annual meeting were approved by the board and posted on the website, *folgeorgetown.org*.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mary Ouellette provided a financial summary of the year to date. Revenue for the first eleven months is nearly \$156,000 with grants to the library totaling \$163,000. Cash on hand and CD total roughly \$259,000 and the investment account equals about \$144,000; this brings total FOL assets to almost \$403,000.

For fiscal year 2025, Mary's budget estimate is \$164,000 in revenue and donations to the library of \$75,000.

Book Sales. Mary also gave the report on Book Sales. Sales via all methods amount to almost \$81,000 so far this fiscal year. That figure includes over \$62,500 from Second Hand Prose and more than \$18,000 in online sales.

Nominating Committee: Next on the agenda were nominations for the 2025 board of directors. Chuck went over the current officers and directors, showing which were up for election and which were still fulfilling their terms of office. New or returning directors are Josie Talbot, Ricki McMillian, and Angela Bryant McGlothlin. Returning are the five presiding officers plus new President-Elect Karen Harrison. All nominations were approved by acclamation.

Committee reports from the coordinators:

Communications: Communications Team Coordinator Jody Patterson thanked her team members and commented that she had little leadership to provide, thanks to their capabilities. Each lead was thanked for their excellent work in sending information to the FOL and the community. Jody stressed how all members can get in touch with the team to make inquiries or suggest topics for communications.

Fundraising: Fundraising Team leads spoke about their individual areas of responsibility. Wayne Talbot summarized the Giving Season fundraiser and how it will be modified for the upcoming campaign. Karen Harrison spoke about past and future Hill Country Authors Series events and thanked co-lead Barbara White and the entire Communications Team for their support.

Volunteer Orientation: Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Olmstead voiced her appreciation to all the volunteers who donate their time, as well as those who donate used books – a large part of FOL's success is due to the workers "behind the scenes." She recalled the "broken elevator challenge" in the spring, as well as the "upstairs recarpeting challenge" of August and early September. The volunteers persisted – they "rose to the challenges." In response to a question from a member, Wayne said that right now there are 168 active volunteers working for FOL and 1,336 total members. In addition, there are a few openings in SHP for those interested.

Membership: Josie Talbot, Co-Coordinator of the Membership Team with Mindy Klein, provided a current report of total FOL membership; she announced a membership drive in the

lobby of the library next week. She also commented that whenever she visits a library in another city or state, she talks about our FOL and amazes people with the fantastic number of members we have and all the activities we sponsor or take part in.

Information Technology: Wayne Talbot reported on the computer and network issues that he and the team have addressed during the year, including securing a separate FOL network from the library's network.

The final segment of this meeting was devoted to Questions and Answers. One member inquired about our participation in the Randalls Good Neighbor program, which donates a percentage of members' grocery shopping totals to FOL. Jody replied that there's a link in each newsletter for more information about joining this program as well as the necessary FOL member number. We had no current figure for earnings.

Adjournment: There was no further business, and Chuck adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Yancy

Secretary

September 26, 2024