

THE FRIENDS OF THE GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board Meeting Minutes, October 15th, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: President Karen Harrison; Past President Chuck Collins; Treasurer Mary Ouellette; Assistant Treasurer Connie Mayes; Secretary Kathy Yancy; President-Elect Angela Bryant McGlothin; Directors Don Ballard, Josie Talbot, Mindy Klein, Wayne Talbot, and Ricki McMillian; Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Olmstead; and Library Director Sally Miculek. We also welcomed Assistant City Manager Laurie Brewer, Rob Dyer and Melissa Siegman from The Georgetown Project, and Jennifer and Alora from the Jarrell Friends of the Library group.

NOT PRESENT: Directors Carolyn McAndrew and Judy Arnold.

Call to Order: President Karen Harrison called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m.

First, our guests Rob Dyer and Melissa Seigman discussed their new fundraising project, Festival of Trees, and described their non-profit organization. They propose to partner with other non-profits, such as the FOL, Friends of the Museum, and perhaps others, to raise awareness of these groups and increase visibility and foot traffic to those locations. The plan outlines involving non-profits from throughout the community to sponsor and decorate an artificial Christmas tree (or wreath) and then participate in an auction of all the trees, revealing the winners at a community-wide holiday party. The trees could be viewed at the Library and Museum, and possibly other central locations; bidding would be online.

The Georgetown Project hopes to raise enough money to cover expenses and share profits with the partnering non-profits. This aspect would be revisited after the first year, with the intention of making the event an annual holiday affair. The board members discussed FOL's participation in executive session after the presentation, and although we appreciate the concept, we didn't feel that it was in keeping with our mission and goals. We will decline to participate.

Next on the agenda was Laurie Brewer of the City Manager's office, whom the board had invited to join us. This was in response to an article written in The Sun issue dated October 1 describing the goings-on at a recent City Council committee meeting where the Friends of the Library and our donations to the library were mentioned; the Friends of the Parks were also included in the article. There were some confusion and concern on the part of many on the board, due to the mention of directing donations toward capital improvement projects. Ms. Brewer explained how the Council and City Manager's office consider budget items and the dollar threshold for examining individual items. She also mentioned the scrutiny that municipal budgets are now receiving from the state legislature. As she explained it, the remarks about "capital improvements" referred to the monies raised by the Friends of Georgetown Parks and Recreation, not the donations made by the FOL. Our practices will not change.

Once these points were explained, board members expressed their concerns about reading the article and its appearance unannounced. Both the Assistant City Manager and Library Director pledged to do a better job of informing our board when items affecting our operations would be coming before the City Council. We all affirmed the importance of continuing to build on the excellent relationship between the

Friends of the Library and the City. Angela thanked Ms. Brewer for her prompt communications with us.

Library Director's Report: Sally first discussed the new Carver Center lockers and showed a mock-up of the wrap. We love Rachael's design!

The new children's book drop is installed in the kids' area and looks great! The Sun City Woodworkers did a wonderful job on it, and staff completed the decorating and installation.

Reminder: the library will close for inventory in the first week of November, the 3rd through the 7th. If anyone from the Friends has difficulty getting access, call the Circulation Desk at 930-3550.

Ricki reminded us about today's presentation of the Trailblazer Award. We talked about how the process has changed for the better since inception. Sally mentioned the timeliness of a project addressing accessibility, as this has been emphasized in recent library staff workshops.

Secretary's Report: Kathy Yancy. The minutes of the August and September meetings were approved as presented; Wayne made a motion to approve, and Don seconded. The minutes will be posted on the FOL website.

Consent Agenda: Don moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Ricki seconded, and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ouellette. Total revenue for the fiscal year was \$160,336.57 and gross profit was \$156,381.98. Expenses totaled \$131,387.25 including donations to the library of \$108,170.77. Net operating income equaled \$24,994.73. With investment and interest income, minus other costs, the total net income for the year was \$51,008.00. Total assets were \$474,260.23 as of September 30th. (All numbers are rounded to whole dollars.)

Communications Report: Angela Bryant McGlothin. Angela handled the response to the article in The Sun newspaper regarding our donations to the library, including the message for the Friends members and library staff/volunteers when asked about it. She worked on the postcard mailers for Giving Season, organized the FOL social media features, and produced graphics and materials for SHP and HCAS.

Book Sales. Secondhand Prose made \$11,125.14 in Collectors' Corner sales and \$50,280.36 in donations in fiscal 2025. Online sales totaled \$21,327.23 and the donation cart plus other donations/sales added up to \$11,088.12. The grand total for all book revenue was \$93,820.85 in fiscal 2025.

Fundraising: Wayne Talbot. Giving Season preparations are underway with mailings scheduled for Nov. 15 and Dec. 6. Angela is wrapping up the postcard mailer project preparations.

Volunteer Orientation: Kathy Olmstead. Orientation will take place today. A copy of the driver's license for each volunteer has been requested verbally, but we would prefer it in writing. Kathy will hold off forwarding those copies until we have written directions.

Membership: Mindy Klein. We have 1308 members from 919 households as of September 30th. Mindy needs 2 more volunteers to work the membership drive next week. The Friends are now signed up to participate in the Sun City Non-Profit Fair on Feb. 20th. Josie is updating the Life Member plaques in the lobby; a new plaque is needed. We approve spending up to \$400 on a plaque.

Information Technology: Wayne Talbot. Wayne reported no new technology issues.

Old Business:

Standing Rules: Don Ballard. As discussed at our August meeting, the Governance Team has updated the Standing Rules, including a name change to Policies. Don moved and Mindy seconded the motion to approve the Policies as revised. All voted in favor, and the revised document will be uploaded to Drive.

Lashley Trailblazer Aware: This project received one entry, which was approved by email vote.

New Business:

Palace Theater: Karen Harrison and Angela Bryant McGlothin. Karen explained how she discovered this non-profit collaboration opportunity. She asked Angela to review the requisite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and Angela suggested only a handful of minor alterations or additions. We then reviewed the available shows for the coming season and chose Forty-Second Street as our preferred set of performances. Don moved that we go forward with this activity and Kathy Y. seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Other: Angela had asked about non-profit bingo game at Sun City; Ricki found some information about this. The Knights of Columbus sponsors the games and proceeds are distributed to various charities. Angela will try to get in touch for more details.

Wayne proposed that the board locate and engage an attorney now, in advance of a potential need for a legal opinion. All agreed that having this arranged in advance is preferable to scrambling to find someone at the last minute. Josie will contact the State Bar for suggestions.

Connie will write and deliver the check this week for Sally's recent funding request. Copies of the accompanying grant agreement will be shared with the board.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ricki moved that we adjourn. Wayne seconded, all voted in favor, and this meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m. Our next meeting will be on November 19th at 9:30 a.m. in the Class Room at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Yancy
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October 21, 2025
Date

