

FOLIO
Board Meeting
April 30, 2021
Via Zoom
FINAL

Board Members Present: Karen Neurohr, Judy Haught, Wayne Hanway, Carla Garrison, Bill Hagen, Diane Pennington, Angie Lewis, Sandra Austin, Melinda Howard, Bridgette Shelton, Eugene Earsom, Sharon Saulmon, Sharon Douthitt, Gerry Hendon, Candace Baird, Jon Douthitt

Advisory Board Members Present: Connie Armstrong, Melody Kellogg

President Hanway called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

The agenda was adopted.

Proposed New Board Members: Sharon proposed Sandra Austin, Dr. Melinda Howard, and Angie Lewis for the FOLIO board. There was a motion from the Nominating Committee to accept all three candidates to the board. The motion passed.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 8, 2021 board meeting were approved.

President's Report: The OLA annual conference will be July 26-28, 2021, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman, Oklahoma. FOLIO's special day will be Wednesday, July 28. Registration is available on the OLA website. Single-day registration for Wednesday, July 28 is at a reduced cost of \$60.

President Hanway gave a summary of FOLIO's activities to the OLA annual membership meeting online April 1, 2021.

Noble Foundation's library director Patrick Brennan recently passed away. He was retired, and it was suggested that we include this notice in the newsletter and suggest that memorial contributions could be made to the FOLIO Endowment.

Board member Eugene Earsom announced that he is leaving the board. He was given a certificate of appreciation for his service to FOLIO.

Books Enjoyed by FOLIO Board Members:

Wayne Hanway reported on *Humble Pi: When Math Goes Wrong in the Real World* by Matt Parker. The book tells the consequences of innocent mathematical mistakes.

Sharon Douthitt reported on *The Soul of a Woman* by Isabel Allende, which is a memoir of the author's experiences as an early feminist.

Judy Haught reported on *Stargazer* by Anne Hillerman which is a mystery that interweaves Navajo culture into the story. She also told of the series *Covered Wagon Women* edited by Kenneth L. Holmes. The books contain the diaries and letters of women who went to California and Oregon in the 1840s and 1850s.

Jon Douthitt told about the book *D-Day: June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II* by Stephen Ambrose.

Bill Hagen reported on *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Kruger. The book is a coming of age story of a young boy in a small town and a murder mystery. He also reported on *This Tender Land* by the same author. That book tells of the journey of three young men who run away from an abusive Indian school in Minnesota.

Candace Baird reported on *The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown: Civil Rights, Censorship, and the American Library* by Louise Penny. It is the story of a librarian dismissed from her job because of her advocacy for racial equality.

Candace also reported on the Inspector Gamache mystery series by Louise Penny.

Diane Pennington discussed *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey, a memoir based on McConaughey's diaries.

Eugene Earsom reported on *1776* by David McCullough. The book tells the story of the soldiers who marched with General Washington in the year of the Declaration of Independence.

Karen Neurohr told about the book *Hill Women* by Cassie Chambers. The book is a memoir of Chambers's struggle to obtain a quality education and overcome the poverty of the Appalachian Mountains. Karen pointed out that Chambers had been a keynote speaker at the Kentucky Book Festival.

Angie Lewis reported on *The Lost and Found Bookshop* by Susan Wiggs. The book tells of a young woman and her ailing grandfather and the decrepit bookstore she inherits.

Sandra Austin reported on *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi. She also discussed *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, which tells of the unspoken caste system in the United States.

Gerry Hendon discussed the memoir *The Girl from Yamhill* by the late children's author Beverly Cleary. Gerry also read several of Cleary's children's books.

Carla Garrison reported on *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah. The book is the story of a woman who emigrates to California to escape the Oklahoma Dustbowl.

Sharon Saulmon reported on *The Woman in the Window* by A. J. Finn, a book of psychological suspense.

Treasurer's Report: Candace Baird reported that FOLIO's finances are doing well. She received dues for one more membership. She mailed checks to Sharon Douthitt for the Best Friends Awards. She also paid for the bulk mail permit. The general fund balance as of March 31, 2021, was \$20,507.92. The stock market has been doing well, so the endowment has benefited. The endowment balance as of March 31, 2021, was \$144,613.73.

Archives/History: No report.

Best Friends Awards: Sharon Douthitt took over as chair of the committee for Jeannine Spencer. She will mail checks and congratulatory letters to Stilwell Public Library Friends Society for the John Harkey Best Friends Award for the under 10,000 population and to Friends of the Donald W. Reynolds Community and Library for the Oklahoma Best Friends Award for the over 10,000 population. She will award plaques to them at the annual meeting.

Friends of Libraries Week Awards: no report

Seed Grants: Eugene Earsom reported that we have received no new applications for seed grants.

Scholarships: Carla Garrison reported that the committee is setting up guidelines for the scholarship applications and awards. The guidelines were emailed to board members prior to the meeting. The board will vote on the guidelines at the July board meeting. The scholarship checks have been mailed to this year's recipients who are Crystal Gillette of Norman, Ghazal Ghazi of Tulsa, Amairani Perez of Tulsa, and Brent Greyson of Oklahoma City. The scholarship award was \$600 this year .

Bylaws: No report

Endowment: Sharon Douthitt reported that the endowment fund is growing. She attended OCCF's endowment case study online. Gerry Hendon reported that the matching grant application is a multilevel process. She received a letter from OCCF welcoming a grant application from FOLIO. Gerry explained that the application is very thorough and lengthy.

Financial Review/Audit: Diane Pennington said that the audit is normally done in July.

Newsletter: Sharon Saulmon reminded board members that articles need to be turned in since the deadline was officially Friday, April 23 for the next issue of the newsletter.

Legislative: Eugene Earsom said the OLA Advocacy Committee meets monthly. Sharon Saulmon was at the last meeting, and the group worked on the virtual Legislation Day activities. Many good ideas were brought forward.

Literary Landmarks: Karen Neurohr reported that the committee at Langston University has not set a date for the Mel Tolson Literary Landmark but is considering February 20-22, 2022. Bill Hagen is looking toward May 2022 for the Tony Hillerman Literary Landmark in conjunction with the author's birthday month. He is exploring avenues of extra funding for the event and

the possibility of bringing Tony Hillerman's daughter Anne Hillerman to the event. Sharon and Jon Douthitt will assist on the Rennard Strickland Literary Landmark.

Membership: Gerry Hendon reported that two Friends groups paid last year's dues. FOLIO's membership includes 46 libraries, 53 Friends groups, and 92 individuals. She also reported on the death of long-time member Patrick Brennan. Karen Neurohr suggested that the newsletter provide an opportunity to make a gift in honor of the deceased.

Nominating: Sharon Saulmon reported that the following board members have agreed to serve another term: Carla Garrison, Bill Hagen, Wayne Hanway, and Karen Neurohr. The board members were elected.

Outreach Ambassadors:

Northeast: Jon Douthitt visited libraries at Miami, Grove, and Jay. The Grove library has recently remodeled the adult reading area. Jon plans to visit the library at Catoosa in the near future.

Northwest: No report

Southwest: Judy Haught reported visits to libraries in Sayre and Elk City. Sayre Friends were conducting a week-long book sale. The library was gearing up for summer reading. Elk City Friends are continuing their Bundles for Babies project which provides mothers of newborns with books for babies and information about the library. They have community and corporate help with the project. They are also planning to participate in another Operation Summer Reads book giveaway this summer. They also sponsored a Poetry Contest in April for National Poetry Month. Judy called the library at Mangum since it was still open only for curbside pickup. The Friends group had not been meeting during the pandemic.

Southeast: Teresia Harrison contacted the Sulphur library to activate a Friends group. Bill Hagen put out a newsletter for Shawnee Friends and received \$800 in dues as a result. He reported that Let's Talk About It Oklahoma is returning statewide with books on the Tulsa race massacre.

Publicity/Media/Marketing: Sharon Saulmon reported 382 posts on Facebook with over 98,000 people reached in the months of January through March 2021. The most popular post was of Bernie Sanders which said "Get your mitts on a good book" with 3,355 people reached.

Candace Baird will be updating the web page in the near future.

Annual Conference: Speakers on various subjects are needed for programs. Two of the topics are "What You Can and Cannot Do to Promote Friends Groups" and "Advocacy."

The FOLIO booth has a prime location, and volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Library students may possibly help on July 28.

ODL/Federal Relations: Connie Armstrong reported that because the Library of Congress had discontinued the Letters about Literature program, the Oklahoma Center for the Book is starting a new program entitled My Favorite Book for the 2021-2022 academic year. Students in grades fourth through eighth will write letters to authors (living or deceased) telling them how their books have impacted their lives. The Friends of the Center for the Book has applied for a grant to cover the cost of prizes for the program.

ODL Director Melody Kellogg reported on a Senate Bill which would exempt sales tax from Tulsa City-County Library.

Governor Stitt vetoed a bill that would have taken away money from ODL for services that the agency provides for pay. Also, the governor is looking toward ending virtual open meetings.

ODL is now under the State Secretary of Education. Ryan Walters was confirmed as Secretary of Education. ODL now has to go through the governor's cabinet for fund approval.

ODL was allotted 9.2 million dollars by the American Rescue Plan and is considering formula grants to public libraries. Funding priorities are high poverty, high unemployment, no internet access.

Director Kellogg also spoke of a career online high school. It would be an accredited program for adults who have aged out of traditional high school. She also mentioned a partnership with OneNet to provide 75 internet access points to library facilities.

ODL is making sure it has "robust" materials for workforce development in areas that include prisons and veterans centers.

Director Kellogg will keep the FOLIO board apprised of the Build America's Libraries Act.

Unfinished Business: Wayne Hanway asked for feedback on a date for the annual retreat at St. Crispin's. October was suggested as possibly being a better time for the retreat.

Wayne reminded the board that they need to make reservations for the annual conference as soon as possible at oklibs.org.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by Judy Haight, Secretary

