

Friends of the Westside Library  
Quarterly Meeting July 21, 2015

The President called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

The notes from the previous meeting were approved.

The treasurer reported a combined balance of \$19,972.33 as of 7/21/15.

The county librarian reported on the following items:

1. The county book sale will be held in Angleton on July 30, July 31, and August 1, 2015. This is a sale of materials being removed from regular circulation as well as donated items.
2. There is a new mascot for the system, named Owlbert.
3. There have been new databases added to the e-branch for music, movies, TV shows and newspapers.
4. The City has approved the renovation of the Pearland branch for next year which will increase the square footage of that facility by 12,000 square feet, and will likely increase traffic through the Westside Branch during the construction period, which is estimated to about one year.
5. Everyone needs to go to the TLA website and submit input to increase funding for libraries across the state

The summer reading program has been hugely successful. 600 children have signed up which is the largest amount of any branch in the county system. There will be more story times and activities going into the fall. The budget amount for summer reading was increased from \$200 to \$250 to accommodate the larger participation.

Alina Laurie and Carol Krenzke were appointed to fill the vacant positions of Vice President and Secretary, respectively.

The president said that Terry Ruiz has worked out an arrangement for land for a permanent stand-alone library location with the City of Pearland. Terry Ruiz and Raymond Ruiz volunteered to work on a committee for this acquisition and fund-raising.

The county long range planning committee is holding meetings at the various branches between July 14 and August 13 to visit with small groups of citizens for input on what citizens want from their libraries in the future. The Westside meeting is scheduled for 7/28/15. The Friends will provide refreshments. Carol Krenzke volunteered to bring brownies and Alina Laurie will send out a sign-up genius request for additional items.

Lydia Fluitt moved that a committee be created to review and revise (if necessary) the by-laws. The motion was seconded. A committee of Raymond Ruiz, Terry Ruiz, Alina Laurie and Carol Krenzke was named.

The Friends website was discussed. There are updates that need to be done. Lydia Fluitt will be the coordinator for this and Amit Joshi will be the implementer. Amit will create a group email for website related matters with deadlines for actions to be taken. When something is done on the website, it should flow through to FaceBook, Twitter and other social media. Amit will implement this. Lucia Briggs will be the social media liaison for the library.

Sue Wheeler said that she had been contacted by Pollo Tropical Restaurant for benefit nights and story hours for children to be held in their location. Wing Zone is another business that does these benefit nights as well. The group indicated that Chick-Fil-A is by far the most visible place for benefit nights. It was suggested that 4 rotating locations per year would be a good approach to fundraising. A fundraising committee needs to be established to follow up on this matter.

The Book Sales are going to be held monthly on the third Friday and the following Saturday of the month. The revenue from the June and July sales was \$383.00. A color-coding system is being implemented to track the age of the donations so that "stale" books can be removed from the sale to keep the inventory fresh. A locking storage closet in the meeting room was re-organized and now has enough room so that the metal shelves currently holding the book donations in the meeting room public space can be moved into it. Raymond Ruiz and Amit Joshi agreed to handle this project. Moving the shelves to the closet will make the meeting room better for story hour and other community meetings. Sue Wheeler also suggested that the Friends might want to consider the acquisition of a money belt so that Friends members can take the money from the book sale customers if the library staff is otherwise occupied.

It was decided to increase the meeting frequency to more often than quarterly, for the time being, in light of new faces in the Friends Group. The next meeting will be August 26, 2015 at 6:30 pm at which time committees for fundraising, membership, etc. will be established.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

In attendance: Raymond Ruiz (President), Tho Miller (Treasurer), David T. Thrash (County Library Director), Sue Wheeler (Branch Librarian), Lucia Briggs (Children's Specialist), and members Theresa Briggs, Bob Briggs, Alina Laurie, Lydia Fluitt, Carol Krenzke, Theresa Ruiz, Amit Joshi and Mona Fluitt.