

**Annual Meeting of the Ketchikan Friends of the Library**  
**April 11, 2018**  
**held jointly with the**  
**City of Ketchikan's Library Advisory Board**

Present: June Dahl, Heidi Ekstrand, Jeanette Rosier, Judy Shoup, Stacy Brainard, Judith McQuerry, Carlen Williams, Jeff Williams, Kerry Watson, and Library Director Pat Tully.

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President June Dahl called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Introductions: Friends of the Library Board of Directors introduced themselves as did the City Library Advisory Board. The City Library Advisory Board members present were: Rebecca Brown, Reagan Miller, Sis Coenen, Penny Pederson, Ruth Tomset (newly appointed), Felix Wong (Borough Assembly representative) and Kerry Watson (FOL representative).

**Minutes**

Friends of the Library - The February 14, 2018 meeting minutes were accepted with a correction on page 2 from "June" Zenge to Judy Zenge.

Library Advisory Board - The minutes of January 18, 2018 of the Library Advisory Board were accepted. (It was reported that there was not a quorum, so no formal meeting was held.)

**Treasurer's Report** - Jeanette Rosier, FOL Board Treasurer, briefly described the sources of income for the Friends as well as its typical expenditures. She explained the primary source of income for the Friends are book sales, which last year brought in a bit over \$7500. Other funds came from memberships, grants, and sales of mugs, bags and ornaments for a total income for the Friends of over \$24,000. Jeanette noted that figure included a generous donation of \$10,000 from Norm Ream & a \$2700 grant from the Ketchikan Community Foundation for the children's garden.

On the spending side, \$9500 went directly to library programs, such as the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), summer reading programs, Alaska Digital Library and the publishing of a brochure of the art in the library facility. For this year, those same expenditures are in the budget as well as \$2000 for library outreach services and \$100 for the National Novel Writing Month. Jeanette noted that on the "Budget vs. Actual" report for January-April 2018, the reference to 2016 book sale funds should be corrected to 2017 book sales.

Heidi Ekstrand announced she'd just received word that donations to FOL through Pick, Click, Give were about \$825.

**M/S to accept the treasurers report. Motion passed.**

**Library Advisory Board Overview: Rebecca Brown** - Stating that there had been some confusion about the two library boards in Ketchikan, June asked Rebecca Brown of the City Library Advisory Board to provide an overview of the two groups represented at the joint meeting that evening.

Rebecca described the Friends of the Library as the community fundraising juggernaut for the Ketchikan library through which many of its programs were made possible. The other group, the Library Advisory Board, is appointed by the city mayor and is purely advisory, providing input and recommendations regarding the library, she said. Rebecca also stated that both boards have vacancies.

**Director's Report** - Library Director Pat Tully provided a "State of the Library" report, noting that National Library Week, was a good time to highlight some of the many services that the library provides. Two she highlighted were the children's community garden and National Novel Writing Month. Grants from the Ketchikan Community Foundation and the Alaska State Library provided for the children's garden. Last year, planter boxes were built and filled, and tools were purchased; and now programs centered around the garden are beginning. Staff member Michelle Lampton initiated the National Novel Writing Month at the library in November to encourage writers and aspiring writers. That month's series of activities was so successful that Michelle has now planned a year-long writing program at the library.

Pat also mentioned the survey conducted last year regarding library services which led to the library's five-year strategic plan for 2018 to through 2022. The library began implementing the Strategic Plan in January. She commended the library staff for programs they create, but also noted that some programs originate with ideas from the community or outside of Ketchikan, such as last summer's programs centered around the August 21, 2017 eclipse. Those were the result of a University of Alaska-Fairbanks professor contacting the library about hosting eclipse activities.

Pat thanked members of both boards for their work. She cited Shellie Tabb, (who couldn't attend that night's meeting) for stepping in as chair as the City Library Advisory Board was re-constituted, and Raegan Miller for leading meetings as vice chair, when Shellie was unable to attend. Pat presented flowers and cards to Friends of the Library Board officers who were leaving their positions - President June Dahl and Secretary Kerry Watson.

Judith McQuerry introduced the featured speaker, City Manager Karl Amylon, by stating: "without him we would not have this beautiful building."

**Featured Speaker: Karl Amylon, Ketchikan City Manager** - City Manager Karl Amylon prefaced his comments by stating that Judith (retired former library director) had asked him to speak about the library and the challenges it might be faced with in the future.

Mr. Amylon said that after a lot of hard work and years of planning, the library building was constructed at a cost of about \$10.8 million dollars and feted with a grand opening in January of 2013. The library's success wasn't without compromise and hard decisions, however, he said. In addition to the highly contested issue of location, Karl said the City Council was opposed to the proposed size of the building and its rooms. Both he and Judith were told that they were overstepping their bounds in respect to the size, he said. Karl said he believes the decision makers didn't truly understand what was going on with libraries locally and across the country - that they were far more than a place to check out books. City Manager Amylon said libraries are places to engage, interact, and sites of learning or a place to seek solitude. Ketchikan is fortunate that its library has become a focal point for critical thought and social interaction, he said; and noted the variety of programs it hosts from story time to films, guest authors, and yoga.

Karl cautioned that allocation of city finances will always be a factor for the library. Another hindrance are the people in the community who don't really understand the focus of libraries now and don't use the library, he added. On a positive note, Ketchikan's library continues to be blessed with a fine staff, he said. He concluded by stating that the library supporters should continue to remind the elected officials of how important the library is to the community and to provide needed resources.

Heidi stated her "heartfelt thanks" to Karl for his leadership and support during the library capital campaign process.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Book sale** - June introduced Jeff and Carlen Williams who had taken on the volunteer job of coordinating the annual book sale soon after she became FOL Board President three years ago. Jeff provided some details on the Friends' book sales, noting the annual sale is scheduled for October 5, 6, and 7 this year. He spoke about the need to sort donations year-round, which is done at the Friends' rented storage unit. He can provide training to sorting volunteers. Jeff noted the Friends had recently secured a larger storage unit (620); and explained a need to cordon off a section inside the storage unit to keep donated items from being pilfered. He has received two quotes from a local fencing company for fencing to provide a separated, secure area. A fence with a door is one option at a cost of \$1800. A fence option minus the door would cost \$1500. The fence would be chain-link, and portable when not in use. Jeff also offered that he could purchase materials and build an inexpensive wall himself; however, that would not be moveable.

**Moved by Judith, second by Judy to spend the \$1800 for a fence with a door for the unit.**

**Motion approved.**

**Gardening Projects:** Lisa Pearson gave a brief update on the tree planting project. The Friends provided \$500 for three weeping cedar trees to be planted near the flagpole. Some delays have occurred with this project, so the tree planting will probably occur in May.

**Norm Ream donation:** June shared the story behind the \$10,000 Norm Ream donation to the Friends. When the new library facility was still in its planning stages, Marjorie Ann Voss bequeathed her estate to the building fund effort. Norm Ream, a 1940 Kayhi graduating classmate of Ms. Voss, heard of this and was apparently inspired to gift \$50,000 to the building fund. Then, this past November while June was at the library doing a pop up store, a library staff member handed her an envelope for the Friends of the Library. Inside was a check for \$10,000, provided by Norm Ream through the Seattle Foundation, said June, sharing the emotion that she had felt at that moment. She explained that there are few restrictions on the use of the money and no looming deadline by which it is to be expended. The Friends have discussed several possibilities for its use, such as purchase of a new pellet stove for the library, or improving acoustics in the large meeting room; but no decisions have yet been made.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

State Library Advisory Board - The Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries had asked the Ketchikan Library for recommendations for a member. Rebecca Brown agreed to apply and was appointed. Rebecca said that the next day, April 12, would be her first meeting of that advisory board.

Election of new Board Members & Election of new Officers - It was announced that the officer positions of President and Secretary were open on the nine-member Board. President June is stepping down after three years in that position and leaving the Board overall. Kerry is resigning as secretary, but is willing to stay as a board member if no one else volunteers. Vice President Judith and Treasurer Jeanette have agreed to remain in their officer positions.

There were no nominations for the Board.

### Officers

President - Vacant

Vice President - Judith McQuerry

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Jeanette Rosier

Sis Coenen volunteered to be a Board member.

June said she would like to show up at Board meetings as a president emeritus when she is inclined.

Drawing for Basket of Books - Judy Shoup.

All attendees were invited to select a free book off the book cart in the corridor.

### Closing comments

June thanked the attendees at that night's meeting, and acknowledged the many people who support the library - from book sale sorters, and those who donate books, to the library staff and the library boards.

June was thanked for her leadership of the Friends of the Library Board .

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The next meeting is June 13, 2018.

Submitted by Kerry Watson.