

Friends of the Empire Library
Minutes of General Meeting
November 10, 2009

President Jim Sterling called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes from the October 15, 2009 meeting were not brought up for approval.

Secretary Susan Harmon was unable to be present; no secretary's report.

Treasurer Roz Starn reported that FOEL now has a checking account (\$453.00) and a savings account (\$5.00) with MOCSE.

President Jim Sterling reported: 1.) contacts have been established in every Empire USD school - sanctioned by Deputy Superintendent Michael Gonzales; 2.) he has visited with the Patterson and Waterford FOL presidents and gathered information from them about their activities, including book sales; 3.) we have established a strong liaison with the Empire Friends of the Pool; 4.) he spoke to a meeting of the Empire Women's Country Club; 5.) we have been asked to provide an informational table at a meeting of the Sipherd Elementary School PTA on December 8th; 6) the River Valley Stitchers (a chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America) is interested in using the library for a "stitch in."

Martha Perales and Carolyn DiPiero had discussions regarding getting kindergarten and first grade classes to come to StoryTime. They will continue to pursue this.

Curtis Erickson volunteered to translate into Spanish the flyer being distributed to create awareness and encourage library use. He also announced he wants to start a community newspaper in Empire and is looking for a community mascot. An Eagle was suggested.

The combined PTA / FOEL Harvest Party had approximately 130 children attending and many adults. Anyone with constructive feedback is urged to contact Jim Sterling or the PTA. Receipts for authorized expenses need to be turned in to Roz Starn. FOEL needs to provide receipts amounting to \$120 to the Foundation for their reimbursement.

Art contest winners for kindergarten are on display and first grade is working on their submissions. Carolyn DiPiero has acquired ribbons for future winners and will get them to Martha Perales. Jim Sterling will prepare a form so more detailed information can be gathered on winners.

Support for the Empire Friends of the Pool's spaghetti dinner fund raiser was encouraged. Motion by Jim Sterling, seconded by Nate Cary that we purchase a spaghetti dinner place mat ad for \$25. Motion by Jim Sterling, seconded by Nate Cary that we contribute a case of spaghetti sauce to the EFOP (approximate cost +/- \$30). Motion tabled.

Discussion ensued regarding appropriateness and levels of support for other community organizations. Carolyn DiPiero expressed concern that we start carefully and be aware of setting precedents, as well as exercising care as to where our financial resources are used.

The toy stuffed squirrel ordered by Martha Perales for use during story time (approved for FOEL to cover cost at prior meeting) is to cost \$30.33.

County Librarian, Vanessa Czopek, addressed several items:

- 1.) She complemented the group on the success of the Halloween event.
- 2.) She advised that a county-wide Friends of the Library meeting will be held at the downtown main library on March 13, 2010 and all FOEL members are invited to attend. FOEL newsletter will be discussed.
- 3.) All FOL organizations and members must be prepared to work for passage of the sale tax funding measure on the ballot in the June 2012 election. If the measure does not pass we will not have a branch library in Empire.
- 4.) We must develop a working financial budget. In addition to being good general management, the funding FOEL can put toward passage of the sales tax measure is calculated as a percentage of its budget.
- 5.) FOEL needs to get liability insurance at a cost of approximately \$400 p.a.

The tabled measure on donating spaghetti sauce was put to a vote. Motion passed.

The continued support of the Village Christian Fellowship was acknowledged.

All present were asked to tell Jim Sterling if they had contacts with businesses in the area where FOEL newsletters and brochures could be distributed.

Anyone with an interest in working to developing membership among area businesses is urged to contact Jim Sterling. Certificates will be presented to hang in businesses proclaiming them to be a Friend of the Library and their names will be displayed in the library.

All members were asked to see if they could bring in one new individual member.

Following discussion of the art contest and how best to follow through, Jim Sterling asked that Marye Martinez, Martha Perales, and Erin Knight-Cary meet with him to develop an outline in writing as to what is to be done, and when.

Amy Taylor confirmed that the bulletin board in the library is available for posting items of general community interest.

Jim Sterling expressed the desire for the development of a long range planning group to establish long range objectives and interim goals, as well as the development of a financial budget. Nate Cary volunteered to be involved. Others are encouraged to participate.

Books sales tables are being used effectively (with an "honor system" of payment) in some branches. Nate Cary, Erin Knight-Cary, and Carolyn DiPiero are to investigate and bring ideas back to the next meeting for consideration.

Amy Taylor advised that many books are stored at the Salida branch library that can be made available to any FOL group wishing to have them for a used book sale.

Liaison with numerous community groups has been established:

PTA - Empire: Becky Clegg, President; Cindy Clements, V P

Sipherd: Bettina Modaresi, President

PAL - Alma Sloan

Empire Friends of the Pool - Bob Dittman and Betty Parker

MAC - Kathaleen Allen

Empire USD -

District Office: Lori Armendariz, Coord of Curriculum Assessment

Empire Elem: Chris Schoeneman, Principal

Capistrano Elem: Kathy Helton, Principal's Sect'y; Sheri Singer, Librarian

Hughes Elem: Linda Miranda, Librarian

Glick Middle: Carol Hoover, Librarian

Sipherd: Kristin Tiger, Principal's Sect'y

Stroud Elem: Lorinda Ferguson, Principal

Involving students was discussed and numerous opportunities were considered which could include: reading tutors and homework helpers. Jim Sterling is to pursue this with counselors at Glick Middle School and Johansen High School.

Contact with our rep on the County Board of Supervisors (William O'Brien) would be beneficial, Vanessa suggested. He needs to be made aware of who we are and what we do for our community.

Location of the current library was discussed and it was pointed out that the previous location (closer to schools and a larger portion of the community) was not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant and it was more economically viable to relocate with other county agencies (Sheriff's Dept and County Health) in the present location.

Changing tables project needs to proceed. Checking with library staff reveals we must use recommended commercial units and professional (county) installation. Carolyn DiPiero suggests we make the anonymous benefactor aware of the possibility of making a contribution to FOEL and then letting FOEL then pay for the units.

Roz Starn has met with Martha Perales and received a list of magazines that she considers it could be advantageous for the library to receive. The list will need to be reviewed and prioritized.

Next General Meeting will be Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Sterling [for Susan M. Harmon, Secretary]