

ALACHUA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT FOUNDATION, INC.

Annual Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2016

The annual meeting of the Associates was called to order by the Chair Pushpa Kalra who welcomed the general membership and commented on the good attendance (approximately 60 attendees). Pushpa also recognized special guests in attendance: Lee Pinkoson, Board of Governors Chair and County Commissioner, and Dr. Leanetta McNealy, Board of Governors and School Board; Susan Sonsini, Board of Trustees Chair, and Dr. Bessie G. Jackson, Board of Trustees Vice-Chair; Shaney Livingston, ACLD Director, and Vivian Alexander and Chris Culp, District Library Staff; and John Ritter, Chair of the Friends of the Library.

The minutes of the 2016 annual meeting, previously approved by the Board of Directors at their November 2015 meeting, were distributed to the membership for information only.

Ann Williams, the first director of the Alachua County Library District, was our speaker for the evening. Her talk, "Linking Gainesville's Architectural Past to Alachua County's Future," focused on the history of the District and the Headquarters Building. An October 15, 1985 referendum created the District but according to legal opinion did not authorize issuing bonds to build library buildings. Thus a second referendum was held on September 15, 1987 seeking approval of a \$19 million bond issue to build a new main library and four branches. Despite considerable opposition, 56% voted for and 44% against. The first major decision was where to locate the HQ building, with parking being a major issue. The decision was to keep it downtown and design a functional building that would fit the cityscape and relate to the environment—to be Alachua County's living room. Construction took place 1988-91, with Perry Construction as the contractor. With construction finished, library staff over two months moved the collection from the old library to the new building, with Richard and Mary Ann Green organizing the grand opening for February 2, 1991. Four new branch libraries were built as well, and five existing branches renovated. Opposition to the district did not end, but it gradually subsided as Alachua County citizens took increasing pride in their library system and its impact on the community through the gift of lifelong learning.

Shaney Livingston, Director of the Alachua County Library District, presented an update on the activities of the Library District, which included a big thank you to our Foundation for our support of the High Springs Branch renovation (the dedication will be September 24). She noted that this past year has been a year of retirement. Other comments included new and more readable formats for the annual accomplishment and long-range reports; a new focus on user experiences for a purpose-based approach to take the library to the next stage; a number of successful programs such as the FOL-funded author series and summer reading programs; a balanced budget and holding steady at the millage rate. The next renovation and expansion will be the Tower Road Branch, with construction to begin after the election, since it's a polling station. The project will also include a new approach for the district of having major space projects, in this case a teaching kitchen.

The annual report from the Chair is attached and is a part of these minutes. Puspha highlighted the following for the membership: continuing to build the endowment, which stood at \$1,146,696 as of August 31; the Foundation funded a Snuggle Up Center and a Teen Zone at the newly renovated High Springs Branch; we hosted our fourth annual Non-Event Author Gala and the Non-event fundraiser which realized \$8,045 in revenue; and we held a reception in March to recognize eight new leaf individual recipients for Katherine's Tree, including the Guy Hudspeth Award funded by the Kosman Foundation. Pushpa also mentioned the success of our participation in the UF Campaign for Charities and grants from the Ehrhart Foundation and the B.J. and Eve Wilder Family Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 each.

Treasurer Mitzi Austin presented the financial report for the fiscal year to date (the fiscal year does not end until September 30) showing ending balances of \$11,812.18 in the UBS checking account, \$5,061.05 in the Harbor Community Bank (formerly Florida Citizens Bank), \$1,108,245.65 in total Endowment Accounts, and \$21,577.37 in the Snuggle Up Centers Account. Total assets as of 8/31/16 are \$1,146,696.06. The final report for the fiscal year through September 30 is attached and made a part of these minutes.

The proposed budget for 2015-2016 fiscal year as presented by the Treasurer lists total expected income and expenses of \$30,000 each. Liz Jones moved the adoption of the budget and it was passed without objection. A copy is attached to these minutes.

The recognition of four new members who joined during this past year was conducted by Jeanne Davis, Membership Committee Co-chair, and umbrellas were presented to those new members present: Masuma and Richard Downie.

Polly Doughty, Co-chair of the Membership Committee, presented the following nominees for office: Bill Burger, Vice-Chair, Mitzi Austin, Treasurer (one-year terms), and Maggie MacDonald Secretary (two-year term). Pushpa Kalra has one year left in her term as Chair. Bill Burger and Maggie MacDonald were elected as new Board members for three-year terms, and Eve Ackerman, Donald Caton, Tish Oustlund, Howard Rosenblatt, and Mary White were re-elected for three-year terms.

Pushpa Kalra in her concluding remarks thanked outgoing Secretary Hunt Davis and Vice-Chair Tom Rider for their service to the Board this past year, and she extended a special thanks to Barbara Scott for all of her hard work on behalf of the Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunt Davis, Jr., Secretary