

FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

Minutes of Annual Meeting

March 28, 2013

President Coralie Farlee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the South Common Room, River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW, Washington, DC.

Dr. Farlee welcomed the attendees, introduced the other five members of the board of directors in attendance (Farley Fisher, CW Hargrave, Donald Flanders, Keith Melder and Rodney Ross,) and then the audience introduced themselves. Board members Joyce Bouvier and Ezra Naughton were unable to attend.

Dr. Farlee discussed the history of Friends of Southwest, beginning in 1998 with 26 donors. Since its inception it has given in grants \$110,000.

Highlights of the group's accomplishments were summarized in the 2012 Annual Report, copies of which were available for pick-up at the sign-in table.

For 2012 most of the funds received came about through two fund-raising campaigns, one in the Spring during which a \$5,000 pledge was matched, and in the Fall with another donor pledging \$2,000, which was matched, with over \$16,000 raised in 2012.

During the year ten awards were made to seven organizations: AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School, Arena Stage, DC Sail, ErnmaUS Learning Center, Smith Center for Learning and the Arts, Southwest CommUnity Forum, and, four entities of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. - The Southwester, Southwest Heritage Project, Southwest Scholarship Fund, and Technology Task Force. Also FOS has pledged a grant for the Southwest Public Information Display System (SW PIDS) conditional upon funding action by the District Department of Transportation.

Dr. Farlee mentioned that the 2012 minutes also were available at the sign-in table.

Presentations were made by representatives of grantee organization, beginning with two representatives from Arena Stage, Rebecca Campana and Julia Suszynski.

Both women expressed pleasure not only for the scholarship grant in 2012 for a Southwest student to attend the four-week intensive session of Camp Arena Stage, but that FOS had decided to fund two scholarships for 2013. Ms. Campana lauded the 6th grader who was the 2012 recipient of the FOS scholarship, and mentioned that an earlier FOS grantee has learned that he was about to get a full scholarship from George Washington University.

Ernrna Ward with ErnrnaUS Learning Center told of the success of her group's trip to Philadelphia, and mentioned that this year they planned to visit the National Archives in connection with their planned 2013 trip, -- a trip which could again be taken hanks to another grant from FOS, Ms, Ward spoke about other excursions and objectives for her students, including lessons relating to finance and to geography.

Paul Taylor gave a brief history of the Southwest Community Forum and described the activities for all at what is now "Summer at Lansburg," including horse rides for children and bingo for seniors,

Thelma Jones thanked FOS for the grant to the Smith Center for Healing and the Arts which was used to underwrite the cost of her attendance at a cancer training institute on navigation and survivorship, and how she was able to use her new skills on behalf of the Smith Center to act as a Community Breast Care Patient Navigator to provide assistance and counseling to cancer patients in Southwest.

Ute Laser with DC Sails spoke about her group's sailing programs, and how with the FOS donation six students had been able to boat safety skills.

Perry Klein, while pointing out that he was present to express thanks for the various Southwest Neighborhood Assembly endeavors that had benefited for FOS support, spent the greater snare of his time in discussing the Technology Task Force, The Technology task Force collected donated computers, refurbished a number of them and made the refurbished computers available to families in local housing projects. Also, the Technology Task Force set up and maintained computer centers at **Amidon-Bowen** Elementary School, Jefferson Middle School and at Syphax Gardens and Greenleaf Gardens Midrise. At Greenleaf, thanks to a grant from FOS, the Taskforce provided internships to two young adults, Mr, Klein said that Carolyn Mitchell with the Scholarship program had planned to attend the FOS meeting but was in the hospital.

Although Dwight Walker was not a past grant recipient at the invitation of President Farlee, he addressed the gathering and told of his work with a start-up company. Subsequently Walker, a resident of Southwest with knowledge and skills in computer training, turned in a grant proposal. He indicated that he would like to provide computer training to local residents of Southwest to equip them for positions at the new Homeland Security center.

No one from the ApnleTree Early Learning Public Charter School was present, although for 2012 FOS had provided a grant for an event at which children and their parents learned about nutrition.

CW Hargrave then gave a summary of the FOS Spring and Fall fund drives. Most funds have come from checks, although FOS is now able to accept credit card donations through Razoo. Unfortunately, Razoo has raised its share for its service to

4.9% making it less attractive to FOS than it had been. Mr. Hargrave pointed to the community youth-oriented grants FOS has made.

Dr. Farlee told the gathering that she had been approached about participation in a Razoo-organized drive, but the consensus was that it would be best if FOS did not participate.

Dr. Farlee noted that FOS was in the process of setting up a web site. She also stated that FOS was seeking additional persons to serve on the board, especially since Keith Melder and Ezra Naughton had decided against seeking re-election. And it was not clear whether Joyce Bouvier would continue as a board member.

Keith Melder proposed, and the group accepted, the re-nomination of CW Hargave for a new three-year term. Dr. Farlee and others expressed thanks to Dr. Melder -one of the founders of FOS - for his work on the group's behalf over the years.

The final item for the evening was discussion of why FOS had revised its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to reflect changes that needed to be made because of the new DC law on operation of non-profit organization, Dr. Farlee thanked Farley Fisher for his contributions and pointed to the hours of time that had been spent in coming up with the two proposed drafts.

Dr. Farlee said that a staff member of Tommy Wells had sent her a 25-page report regarding the rationale for the need for the new law. For FOS, the key change with the new drafts was that donors would no longer be considered members. However, Dr. Farlee pledged that this change would not lead to any changes in the way grants were made or in how donors would be kept informed of actions by FOS. Henceforth, all rights and powers would reside with the board.

Donald Flanders moved that the two documents be adopted, and CW Hargrave seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

After answering questions on registrations and IRS filings, and announcing that the next board meeting would be on May 14th, the annual meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Ross
Board Member and Acting Secretary