

President Kris Weidenbenner called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm

**Present:** Rebecca Cody, Kathy Dougherty, Andrew Haines, Sharon Lee, Steve McKinstry, Heidi Meister, Susan Prichard, Joshlyn Racherbaumer, Debbie Rutsch, Victoria Schmitt Babb, Kris Weidenbenner, Blake Wyatt

**Absent:** Kelli Brammeier, Myra Crook, Nicole Kozma, Mandy Studer, Danielle Tormala, Jim Brown

**Staff Present:** Karen Englert, and Erica Land

**Guest Speaker:** Jennifer Pontello

*Books to You* volunteer Jennifer Pontello, talked about her experiences as a Foundation volunteer.

**Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the September 2015 meeting were presented by Kris Weidenbenner. Blake Wyatt made a motion to approve. Victoria Schmitt Babb (second) Motion passed.

**Financial Report** – Erica Land presented the financial report. Victoria Schmitt Babb made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Heidi Meister (second) Motion Passed

### **Committee Reports**

- Executive- Steve talked about a new program that the Francis Howell School District is running called FACT. The program involves sending high school students to businesses. He suggested that maybe the Foundation could somehow participate in this program. Steve also mentioned that Art Uncorked ticket sales were low and asked for a show of hands of who had purchased tickets. Steve discussed the plans to partner with Kolbe Company to introduce the Library Foundation to more local corporations. Steve said he felt that we needed to be more forward with businesses. The Executive Committee has looked over the budget and had no changes. Steve did note that the Marketing expenses are down.
- Development/Finance – Blake requested that all Board members donate a \$15 bottle of wine or liquor for Art Uncorked. He also mentioned that all businesses on the list had been contacted regarding donations.
- Program- Karen Englert mentioned that she had recently talked to Wentzville officials about a Storybook Walk at Heartland Park. She shared that the Foundation was now partnering with the Girl Scouts to help with the assembly of the Mini Libraries. In a further update on the Mini Libraries, Karen said that 3 Mini Libraries have been installed in Mercy medical facilities, and that 2 more Habitat Homes will get Mini Libraries this week. This brings the total to 31 Mini Libraries installed in the last 3 years.

**Boeing Grant** – Karen shared that the \$45,000 grant from the Boeing company had been received. This grant will be used for new Early Literacy Parent Education called Grow your Reader Together. A task force has been formed to help work on the planning, organization, book selection, etc.

**Art Uncorked-** Karen said so far, 196 general admission tickets have been sold and 26 VIP tickets. Maximum for this event is 350 people. She mentioned that we are competing with several other major events, and this may be the reason that ticket sales are down.

**Gala** – Karen asked everyone to mark their calendar to attend the 2016 Foundation Gala on May 14. She reported that the first Gala meeting was held on October 29. There are 16 people on the committee. This year’s theme is Harry Potter and the 2016 co-chairs are Bill and Tania Hillmer. We will be using a new service called BidPal this year.

**Executive Director Comments** – Erica spoke briefly about the Boeing grant. The Foundation received the check for \$45,000 for the Ready to Read program/ Grow your Reader. Erica asked for the approval of the need of hiring an intern for the Foundation. The intern would help with the gala by working 15 hours a week at 12.00 an hour. They would also help secure auction items and send out mailings.

Erica lead the discussion with the group about the partnership with KolbeCo. The partnership will consist of introductions per month for a period of time. They will be opening doors for the Foundation that could lead to Corporate sponsorships.

**Library District Comments** – Jim Brown was stuck in traffic.

**Kolbe Company** – Victoria expressed her concerns about the cost of contracting with Kolbe Company. Kris felt that the \$300 per month charge was worth it if they helped us develop a relationship with businesses. Rebecca agreed that relationship building with corporations was important. Blake felt it was worth the cost. Rebecca also pointed out that the money that the Foundation spent on the billboard contract is comparable to what the six month contract with Kolbe Company would be, and that the investment in Kolbe Company would yield a much better depth of awareness. She felt that the money spent will be made up in the results. Sharon added with the current work load, it made sense to let Kolbe Company work on our behalf and be our stepping stone. Kris recommended that the Foundation engage the services of Kolbe Company. Blake Wyatt made a motion to approve. Rebecca Cody (second) Victoria Schmitt Babb abstained. Motion carried.

**Friends of the Library Comments** – Debbie gave an update on the Friends of the Library

#### **New Business**

**Paid Intern** Kris discussed the hiring of a paid intern and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. Sharon Lee made a motion to approve the hiring of an intern. Debbie Rutsch (second). No opposed. Motion approved.

**Brr Bash** Karen Englert mentioned that the Foundation was the toy sponsor for this event.

Kris Weidenbenner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 pm. Victoria Schmitt Babb (second). Motion passed.

Recording Secretary, Erica Land  
Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2015

