



FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

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MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

President Coralie Farlee called the annual meeting of Friends of Southwest DC (FOS) to order on March 30, 2017, at 7:10 p.m., at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW.

Members of the FOS Board of Directors introduced themselves: CW Hargrave, Joyce Bouvier, Cecilie Jones, Jean Sammon, Peter Eicher, Lucy Rojansky, and Rodney Ross, who noted that this was his last FOS meeting as a board member. Attendees, including representatives of grantee organizations and donors, introduced themselves.

Coralie Farlee thanked Westminster Church for the use of the space, and all those who helped set up and prepare for the meeting. She also thanked Perry Klein for his ongoing support, and thanked Rod Ross for his years of service on the board.

Coralie summarized 2016 accomplishments, including 10 grants, totaling over \$22,000, to 9 organizations, and noted that 4 of the organizations were new FOS grantees. FOS raised nearly \$28,000, the largest amount in its history, and continued to keep administrative expenses to a minimum, allowing over 95% of income to be used for grants. She emphasized that FOS is neighborhood-funded for neighborhood grantees, and has supported 40 organizations since its beginning.

Coralie announced the Spring "triple match" fund drive, which will run until July 4. She thanked everyone for coming, noted that we are always open to suggestions, and that there are two vacancies on the board.

Jean Sammon called attention to the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting, copies of which were available on the table at the entrance.

Cecilie Jones reported on the recent board elections, where Coralie was re-elected to another 3-year term and also re-elected as President, and C.W. Hargrave was re-elected as Treasurer.

Peter Eicher, who came on the board in August, and Lucy Rojansky, who started in December, shared a few of their impressions as new board members.

Jean Sammon noted that copies of the 2016 Annual Report were available on the sign-in table. It gives more detail about the accomplishments that Coralie mentioned in her summary. Jean also noted that FOS revised its grant application and brochure in 2016, and was continuing to look for places and ways to let more people know about Friends of Southwest DC.

Representatives of organizations that received FOS grants in 2016 each spoke about how the grants were beneficial to residents of Southwest:

Monica Evans and 2 members of her Southwest Girl Scout troop, Tasia and Marshayla Bailey, spoke about their "Journey in a Day" at the Chesapeake Children's Museum, which enabled them to earn a first aid badge. They also brought some Girl Scout cookies to share!

Martin Wells, of the Amidon-Bowen PTA, explained how the school needs to compete for students with other DC public and charter schools. Their "branding" project, funded by an FOS grant, helped them develop logos and folders of materials to attract parents to select Amidon-Bowen. They saw positive results in that the number of applications for both 3 and 4-year-old students increased substantially from 2016 to 2017. He thanked Lucy Rojansky for coming up with the idea and seeking a grant. Coralie explained that this was before Lucy was elected to the FOS board, so it was not a conflict of interest.

Hanna Fried-Tanzer and Anita Maynard Losh of Arena Stage thanked FOS for its years of support for Jefferson Academy students attending Camp Arena Stage and the Voices of Now program. They described how the 2 students who received FOS-funded Camp scholarships in 2016 discovered their creative and performance skills, and how some of the previous students grew to be mentors in Voices of Now.

Bob Craycraft of DC Waterfront Village talked about the services that are now being provided by the Village, thanks to the matching grant from FOS. The grant was used for critical start-up activities like regulatory filings, staff training, and the technology platform for managing finances, membership, service requests, and communication. Two members of the Village, Rita and Harry, illustrated how services like transportation and health care assistance are vital to enable them to continue to live in their homes.

Emma Ward of EmmaUS took students on educational trips to the National Archives in DC and the Constitution Center in Philadelphia, as she has done in previous years. All the money from the FOS grant was used to benefit the children. They get money for food, and learn about saving money. They not only learn about the U.S. Constitution, but also learn about road

signs on the trip. Older students are leaders and administer tests on American history while on the trip.

Paul Taylor "found" FOS in 2009 and has been getting grants since then for the Southwest Comm-Unity Forum event, which is his way of giving back to the neighborhood. Now called "Summer in Lansburgh Park" the event brings together many people from all over who grew up in SW. Food is donated, and FOS grants help to fund carnival rides for kids.

Jay Shorter of STORM (Students Taught Organization and Respect through Mentoring) started by saying that what FOS describes as "modest" grants mean a lot to his organization. They work with boys from Jefferson Academy to try to break the cycle of poverty. Many of them never leave the area, and it is important to get them out of the city to learn about new opportunities. The FOS grant funded a trip to Hampton VA, where they explored several historical sites and colleges.

Vyllorya Evans showed a video that was made by Asha Marshall, one of the recipients of an FOS-funded SWNA Scholarship. (The other recipient, Phillip O'Sullivan, also made a video, but there were technical difficulties with that one.) Asha, a Junior at Bradford University, majoring in criminal justice and psychology, thanked SWNA and FOS for the grant which helped her pay for many necessities at school. Vyllorya said that 17 students received scholarships in 2016, and that students are encouraged to work with SWNA on projects in the community.

Vyllorya also said that Perry Klein, who was unable to attend the annual meeting, was grateful for the ads that FOS placed in The Southwester.

Board treasurer C.W. Hargrave reported that the amount of money raised and given in grants increased from 2015 to 2016, as did the number of donors. He reminded everyone that FOS will take checks or credit cards for the \$10,000 matching fundraising campaign that is going on now.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Sammon, Secretary

Approved by the FOS board May 15, 2017