



FRIENDS OF SOUTHWEST DC

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MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

President Coralie Farlee called the annual meeting of Friends of Southwest DC (FOS) to order on March 20, 2017, at 7:07 p.m., at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW.

Other members of the FOS Board of Directors attending were introduced: Joyce Bouvier, Peter Eicher, Cecilie Jones, and Jean Sammon. Board member C.W Hargrave was not able to attend the meeting.

Coralie summarized 2017 accomplishments, including 9 grants, totaling over \$27,000, to 8 organizations. She noted that FOS income and the number of donors had increased from previous years. She announced that the 2018 Spring fundraising campaign, which runs through July 4, has an anonymous donor who will match any donations up to \$10,000, and another donor has agreed to match up to \$5,000 in donations during the Fall campaign.

Peter Eicher reported on the board elections that took place at the March 5 board meeting: Joyce Bouvier and Peter Eicher were re-elected to the board for 3-year terms; Coralie Farlee was re-elected to the office of President for a 2-year term, and Peter Eicher was elected to the office of Vice President for a 1-year term. Peter noted that the FOS board has three openings and is now recruiting new members. A flyer about board membership was distributed at the meeting.

Jean Sammon noted that copies of the 2017 Annual Report are available on the sign-in table. It gives more detail about the accomplishments that Coralie mentioned in her summary.

Representatives of organizations that received FOS grants in 2017 each spoke about how the grants were beneficial to residents of Southwest:

Hanna Fried-Tanzer and Medha Marsten of **Arena Stage** described the Camp Arena Stage program and thanked FOS for providing scholarships for two Southwest students to attend. They also described the "Voices of Now" program, which started with students from Jefferson Academy, and thanked FOS for again providing a grant to fund Jefferson Academy's participation in 2017.

Jay Shorter of **DC STORM** (Students Taught Organization and Respect through Mentoring) introduced his colleague Mr. Ricks and talked about their work with students from Jefferson and Amidon-Bowen to broaden their cultural horizons. An FOS grant funded a trip to Philadelphia to visit a science museum and several colleges.

Gabriele Stauch, who came to the FOS annual meeting for the first time last year, and has since joined Emma Ward on her educational trips for students, described the two **EmmaUS** trips that were funded by FOS – one to the Turkey Hill Experience, and one to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. She also mentioned the quizzes that they give students on the bus to see what they learn from the experience.

Alexis Tuttle, of the **Amidon-Bowen PTA**, talked about the needs at the school, especially for technology. The FOS grant for tablets for pre-K and Kindergarten students are helping them get an early start in literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math). Jean Sammon mentioned that there was an article in March issue of *The Southwester* newspaper about the grant and the FOS board members' visit to the school.

Vyllorya Evans was once again present to talk about **SWNA Scholarships**. She narrated a slide show of the awards program and showed videos from the three students whose scholarships were funded by the FOS grant – Samantha Anderson, who attends Carleton College, Caitlin Whitter, a senior at George Washington University, and Daniele Crutchfield, a freshman at Allegheny College. Daniele's parents were at the meeting, and they mentioned that Daniele was also in Arena's Voices of Now Program!

Vyllorya said that seven students who were previously funded by FOS were still in school.

Bob Craycraft of DC **Waterfront Village** reported that the FOS matching grant was tripled by the fundraising efforts of the new Friends of Waterfront Village group. The grant funds a seminar series of topics focused on senior health and wellness. The series started in September 2017 and continues into 2018.

Paul Taylor of the Southwest Comm-Unity Forum was not able to attend the meeting. An FOS grant once again funded the Summer in Lansburgh Park Community Day, as has been done in past years.

Representatives from the Omnicron eta Lambda Charitable Foundation were not able to make it to the meeting due to weather (snow) related traffic. This organization was a new FOS grantee in 2017. They held a Southwest community day that provided school supplies for children.

There were a few questions and comments from those who attended the meeting, which were answered by the grantees. One of the attendees asked Alexis Tuttle to say a few words about advocacy needed to get more funds for education in the Mayor's budget. Alexis said there were cutbacks to personnel at Amidon-Bowen due to budget issues, and she appreciates community advocacy.

Peter Eicher wrapped up the meeting by saying that FOS was pleased with the nearly \$32,000 in donations received in 2017, more than any previous years. He reminded people that we can do more if donations continue to increase in 2018.

Coralie thanked everyone for coming, and adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Sammon, Secretary
May 1, 2018

Approved at May 7, 2018
board meeting

Note: More information about the meeting, along with a few pictures, can be found in the May 2018 issue of *The Southwester* newspaper.