

**Friends of the Victoria Public Library (FOVPL)  
Membership Meeting – February 25, 2016  
5:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

I. Call to Order: Cliff called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

II. Invocation/Blessing: Gus gave the blessing.

III. Pledge of Allegiance: Gus led us in the Pledge.

IV. Approval of the January Minutes:

A motion was properly made and seconded to approve the January Minutes. The motion passed. The Minutes were approved.

V. Approval of the February Treasurer's Report:

A motion was properly made and seconded to approve the February Treasurer's Report. The motion passed. The Report was approved.

VI. Statements & Organizational Matters

The relationship between Friends and the Library Administration and Trustees has gone from tense to confrontational, to toxic, to intolerable. We held a Directors' meeting last Friday to determine what could be done with the situation. The Friends have been rendered obsolete.

By a majority vote of the Directors, the motion to dissolve the Friends of the Victoria Public Library was approved. Legalities need to be checked regarding who can receive our assets and whether we need to be a 501(c)(3) to dissolve.

A motion was made and seconded to re-vote on dissolution at our next meeting, after we have acquired the necessary information. The motion ~~passed~~ **failed**. ~~The Directors will vote again next month.~~ **The approved motion to dissolve stands.**

VII. Organizational Reports:

A. Victoria Public Library (VPL) Report: None

B. LCPLS Trustee Report: None

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Bylaws Committee (Chair Lamont Brand): Tabled

B. Activities and Fundraising Committee (Chair Betsy Sheffield)

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

In honor of the inception of the new library system on 1 July 2015, Friends hosted a Grand Opening and provided refreshments and door prizes. Since then, Friends have provided monthly window and bulletin board displays, hosted a Silent Auction and Bake Sale fundraiser while showing continuous cowboy movies during National Day of the Cowboy, and hosted a Used Book Sale and sold raffle tickets for two \$25 gift cards during Autumn Day. Friends

also hosted an Open House and provided cookies and hot cocoa before the Christmas Parade, entered a float in the parade, and hosted a children's Christmas Story Time during Small Town Christmas.

At the Director's request, Friends agreed to pay for a Live Bats program for Victoria Elementary School students, but the company did not return several phone calls that Friends placed to them to arrange the program. Also at the Director's request, Friends agreed to pay for one additional day per week of cleaning at the Victoria Public Library that amounts to \$100 per month. Additionally, at the Director's request, Friends agreed to pay up to \$1,000 towards the cost of a new carpet and installation in the meeting room.

Friends also donated a monetary gift to the two Victoria Public Library employees.

#### ONGOING CONCERNS:

The Trustees have banned certain fundraising activities that we have held in the past and wish to continue, such as Bake Sales, Autumn Day Lunch, and Spring Tea. The Director denied Friends' proposed activities that they volunteered to run, such as pre-school story time, PAWS for Reading, Character Day, and Valentine's Box. Friends were withheld access to areas of the library during a fundraising activity in the meeting room. The Director and Trustees deny Friends a storage facility for their materials. The Director and Trustees deny Friends' proposal to pay for the improvement of the basement for storage and meeting space. The Director and Trustees treat citizens' concerns and Friends' suggestions that Friends pass to them as Friends trying to run the library.

The Director does not communicate with Friends. She does not attend Friends meetings and prohibits employees from attending. She does not provide Friends with updates on what is occurring in and with the library. She accused the President of harassment. The Trustees do not want to support Friends' Little Free Library project and do not want it to be associated with the Lunenburg County Public Library System.

Trustee policy is that all volunteers in the library must have a background check and be trained, but the Director is too busy to provide training.

- IX. Old Business: Tabled
- X. New Business: Tabled
- XI. Other Business: None
- XII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

## Attendance List

### Board of Directors

Cliff Sheffield, President  
Lamont Brand, Vice President  
Trudy Berry, Secretary  
Betsy Sheffield, Director  
Gus Villalobos, Director

### Members

Aggi Villalobos

### Trustees

Claude Otey

### Guests

Gloria Jennings