

Carbon County Library System

Friends of the Library Policy

The Library Board encourages the formation and continued support of Friends of the Library groups in CCLS communities.

Purpose

Friends of the Library groups are nonprofit organizations made up of interested persons for some or all of the following reasons:

- to raise funds for special projects outside of the general library budget which complement the Library's goals and objectives
- to stimulate interest in the Library and promote the use of the Library's resources
- to sponsor cultural and related programs that are of interest to the community
- to provide hands-on or in-kind service to the Library
- to encourage gifts, endowments and memorials to benefit the Library
- to be an advocate for the Library's services
- to be an informed, active citizen lobby to advocate for the Library with public and elected officials, including local officials, County Commissioners, State and U.S. legislators

Recognition

In order to be officially recognized as a Friends of the Library organization it is essential that an active group have written bylaws which designate:

- a name for the organization
- its purpose or reason for being in a form similar to a "mission statement"
- membership qualifications and classifications, such as "active member" or "inactive but financially supportive member"
- dues classifications, if any
- selection of a minimum number of officers, their terms and duties (president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer)
- record keeping and financial policies including where and how deposits are made, a fiscal year which matches that of the Library System, and provision for yearly financial statements to be sent to the Library Board at the end of the fiscal year
- a provision for meetings (quorum and rules of order) and activities
- procedures for amendment to the bylaws
- a clause stipulating that upon dissolution of the Friends group the remaining monies fall to the local Library

Relationships

Friends of the Library support the policies of the Library System which are adopted by the Library Board and spend all funds raised on behalf of the Library. An open invitation to attend any or all Library Board meetings exists to promote communication

between Friends, Library Board, and Executive Director.

Friends and Library Director

Each Friends of the Library group, local Branch Manager, and the Executive Director need to clearly understand their respective roles in order to work together toward common goals. Through cooperation with each other, they coordinate their planning for projects, programs, membership drives, and publicity in order to prevent duplication of effort.

Friends and Library Board

The powers and duties of the Library Board are established by law, and, consequently, cannot be given to any Friends group. These basic duties include the employment of a competent and qualified Executive Director, the formulation of policy, the development of planning, and the generation of adequate funding for the Library's facilities, programs, and services. In addition, they must monitor the operating budget and protect the assets of the Library. By informally discussing actions taken by the Board with friends and neighbors in their communities, the Friends groups promote and support the work of the Board.

Friends and Library Foundation

Friends groups recognize and support the Library Foundation's goals and projects, which generally have a greater scope than the individual projects of the Friends groups.

The Library Board endorses the fund-raising role of both the Friends groups and the Library Foundation, and encourages consultation with the Board, Branch Manager or Library Director concerning the need for possible future projects. Fund-raising can either be a joint venture or be a project that solely involves the Friends group.

It is not the intention of the Library Board or this policy to control the activities of individual Friends of the Library groups in Carbon County, but for all involved to be better informed about the roles and activities of the others. When funds are raised under the name of the Carbon County Library or one of its Libraries, the public expects certain reassurances that monies will be spent in a responsible way for materials or services that are truly needed or wanted. By working together, the Library Board, Director, Branch Manager, Foundation and Friends groups will fulfill this promise.

Approved 4/17/12