SSCHPL
Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library

Friends of the Library Policy

Philosophy Statement

A "Friends of the Library" organization constitutes an important community resource for public libraries. It draws from the community and can increase understanding of, and support for, the library within that community. As in any volunteer organization, members are provided with an opportunity to use their time, skills, resources and contacts in a worthwhile community endeavor, while receiving recognition for their efforts.

Friends may raise money through book sales, sponsorship of special events or other means at the discretion of the Library Board and staff. The role of the Friends is a support group, rather than a policy-making body.

Standards

1. There should be a written statement of purpose and by-laws on file, which should be done in accordance with the Policies of the Library Board of Trustees.
2. Friends may be future trustees and trustees may be members of Friends; however, there should be no overlapping boards.
3. All "Friends of the Library" projects should be undertaken in conjunction with the Library's Long-Range Plan: Goals & Objectives, which should be provided to the Friends of the Library on an annual basis.
4. The Board reserves the right of approval for Friends' activities.
5. It is the wish of the Library Board to receive information about "Friends" meetings, officers, plans, and purposes. This should be done through the Library Director or designated liaison.
6. The Library adheres to the principles expounded by Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) and expressed in Fact Sheet 11: Trustees & Friends/Friends & Trustees (Appendix I). This includes:
7. "At least yearly, the library board should plan a joint meeting to discuss mutual concerns with Friends."
8. Any public relations work by the "Friends" on behalf of the Library should be coordinated with the Library Director, who may share ideas, offer suggestions, and assist in an advisory capacity throughout the duration of the PR program.
9. Gifts made to the library by the Friends shall conform to the library gift and fiscal policies, and shall not be used to dictate library policy.
10. Funds raised by the Friends shall not be a substitute for adequate local funding.

11. Funds raised by the Friends shall be maintained in an account separate and distinct from the library's operating accounts. The Friends' Board shall administer such accounts.

Adopted by the Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library Board March 27, 2003