



FINAL MINUTES

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Special Board Meeting

September 21, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE (via Zoom): Janet Arden, Maureen Sheehan, Frankie Robinson, Tracy Kline, Jean Lindsey, Nancy Possinger, Ewa Bacon, Kathleen McCullough, Carolyn Oesterle, Jane Palmer, Patricia Spence, Patricia Bernhold, and Phyllis Fogel

CALL TO ORDER

Co-President Janet Arden called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. She reiterated that the purpose of this special Board meeting was to discuss a plan proposed by Book Sale Chair Ewa Bacon. Tracy Kline requested that the meeting be recorded. Co-President Arden said that she would record it.

CHAIR REPORT

Book Sale Chair Ewa Bacon reported that a book wholesaler by the name of Bob Squires contacted the Branch regarding its Book Sale after seeing a reference to it on the Branch's Face Book page. She shared that Mr. Squires is interested in buying the books that the Branch has accumulated in preparation of its Book Sale. Book Sale Chair Bacon also reported that she and Marilyn Wiedemann met with Mr. Squires at the lockers where the books are being stored so that he could get a sense of the Branch's book inventory.

In summary, Book Sale Chair Bacon stated that Mr. Squires will provide an initial payment for the books. He may make a subsequent payment after an additional review of the books. Book Sale Chair Bacon believes that any subsequent payments will be primarily based on the value of the curios which she said comprise approximately 10% of the total number of boxes of books. Mr. Squires will not charge for moving the books from the lockers. Mr. Squires is based in Pecatonica, Illinois. Please see attachments titled "Squires Proposal" and "Impact Analysis - Sale of Books" for additional information regarding this proposal.

Book Sale Chair Bacon stated that the pros identified in reference to accepting Mr. Squires' offer include: 1) It would result in lowered costs for the Branch since we would no longer be paying for locker rental fees, appraiser services, and movers; 2) Workers and customers would

be better protected since they would not be potentially exposed to COVID-19 and other hazards associated with Book Sale work; 3) There is no guarantee that the Spring of 2021 will be better in terms of the pandemic; 4) The plan would allow for the respectful handling of the books that have been collected. Book Sale Chair Bacon stated that the cons that were identified in reference to accepting Mr. Squires' offer include: 1) The terms of the proposal would result in less income than the traditional sale; 2) The Branch's community relations impact would be decreased; 3) The sentimentality associated with ending a long-standing tradition could be challenging.

Book Sale Chair Bacon reported that if the Board decides to approve this plan, Mr. Squires will come out to the storage lockers on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 to begin removing the boxes of books. There are 438 boxes of books, but 15 of these boxes are oversized so the functional box count is 450. Mr. Squires estimated that there are 12,000 books in the lockers.

Kathleen McCullough shared that as a two-time Book Sale Chair, she felt that this was a sad day, but she thinks the proposal is a great solution.

Patricia Spence complimented Book Sale Chair Bacon for her presentation and asked if all curios- even those from previous Book Sales- would be included in what Mr. Squires will be taking. Book Sale Chair Bacon said that those items would be included.

Book Sale Chair Bacon asked Maureen Sheehan if she will need a check made out to our Branch from Mr. Squires when he comes to the lockers on Wednesday. Maureen said that she would need such a check. Book Sale Chair Bacon proposed that she submit an announcement to *Twigs* regarding these Book Sale-related topics and that the announcement would contain no reference about possible future Book Sales. Co-President Arden shared that she is in the process of developing an all-Branch email regarding these topics and will let Co-President Simon and Book Sale Chair Bacon review the email before sending it to the members. Book Sale Chair Bacon said that it will still be possible to organize smaller book-related projects in the future.

Book Sale Chair Bacon asked Jane Palmer to remove all references from the website about collecting books. Jane shared that she thought that all references had already been removed but that she will check again.

Kathleen reported that the upcoming issue of *Twigs* is already formatted. Book Sale Chair Bacon said that she will rework a submittal for *Twigs* that should be able to be accommodated within the formatted space.

Phyllis Fogel expressed sadness about there not being a Book Sale and thanked Book Sale Chair Bacon and the Board for their work regarding this matter. She also asked if she could still contribute two boxes of books. Several members suggested that she donate the books to SCARCE, Goodwill, or to local libraries.

Book Sale Chair Bacon reported that the Book Sale owns quite a bit of property (e.g. cash boxes) that could possibly be used in the future. However, a determination needs to be made regarding what can be used and what should be thrown away.

Co-President Arden encouraged everyone to think of other activities in which the Branch can engage in order to continue promotion of our brand. Book Sale Chair Bacon expressed concern that our Branch will “disappear” from the community if we do not have another project that promotes our organization.

Carolyn Oesterle moved that the Board accept Mr. Squires’ offer to buy the Branch’s collected inventory of books and cancel the Book Sale event for this year, next year, and until such time future plans can be made. Nancy Possinger seconded this motion, and it was unanimously approved.

All members in attendance complimented Book Sale Chair Bacon on her efforts and the manner in which she developed an organized response to Mr. Squires’ offer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.