



Press Release

December 4, 2017

The Friends of the Cecil County Public Library and the Cecil County Public Library Foundation have joined forces and will now move forward as the Friends Foundation of the Cecil County Public Library. After two decades of operating separately to support the mission and programs of the county's public library system beyond its operating budget, the boards of the Friends and the Foundation determined that a combined board made up of representatives from both entities would have greater effect by expanding fundraising and advocacy capabilities while reducing administrative responsibilities for the volunteer board. The Friends Foundation has adopted a new mission to enrich the library's impact through philanthropy and advocacy.

The former Friends organization, formed in 1955 focused on advocacy and short-term fundraising for the library's annual Summer Reading program and the purchase of a new bookmobile last year. The former Foundation organization, formed in 1994, focused its efforts on long-term fundraising for capital projects and facilities enhancements. A transition team comprised of members of both organizations met for several months to explore the logistical, strategic, and financial considerations of such a merger and in September, both boards unanimously voted to move forward with the new model for a combined Friends Foundation board. At their October 9th meeting, CCPL's Board of Trustees appointed ten Directors to the new Friends Foundation Board: John Barteld, Amanda Butler, Alycia Cloud, William Dallas, Margaret Dillner, Patricia Folk, Doug Hill, Andrea Pugh, Carol Starzmann, and Christine Valuckas. The Friends Foundation board selected Amanda Butler as Chair, Andrea Pugh as Vice Chair, Christine Valuckas as Treasurer, and William Dallas as Secretary.

"We have combined our strengths and created an organizational vision to inspire a culture of giving that will enhance and support our award-winning library system," stated Chair Amanda Butler, formerly President of the Friends. "Many Board members from both groups have remained in leadership and we are energized to keep up the work we've done, such as supporting summer reading and the bookmobile – and to keep an eye on the future North East Library and all the possibilities that library will bring."

Cecil County Public Library Director Morgan Miller, who has worked closely with the two groups and is an ex officio member of the board stated, "It's been a very thoughtful process and I am proud to have such dedicated, visionary leaders working on behalf of Cecil County Public Library."

The Friends Foundation will continue to host the annual Crab Crawl in September as well as other special events throughout the year. Later this year, the Friends Foundation plans to embark on a community capital campaign to raise funds to enhance the early literacy space at the new North East Library, scheduled for design this year. For more information please contact Frazier Walker, Community Relations Manager at Cecil County Public Library (410) 996-1055 x129 or fwalker@ccplnet.org