

First Meeting of DeSoto poetry group

November 30, 2010
DeSoto Public Library

Next Meeting

- When: 6:30pm Monday December 10, 2010
- Where: DeSoto Public Library - Quiet Reading Room

Summary of First Meeting

[The following is based on my recollection of our first meeting. I don't trust my memory, so please let me know if you have any corrections or additions by replying to this email message. Thanks. - Glenn Currier]

- **What happened at the meeting**
 - We read the poems we brought to the meeting and those present applauded and gave positive feedback.
 - We had a lengthy discussion of what we wanted the group to be.
 - We made some decisions about what will happen with the group in the future and presented ideas about what we might do.
 - We put off some issues until future meetings.
- **What we want our group to be**
 - *Reading and Listening to Poetry:* After much discussion we agreed that we wanted our group to be a place where we can read or present our poetry and it would be listened to with respect and positive support. If individuals want critical feedback or suggestions they can ask for it.
 - *Learn about poetry:* We want to learn about the process of writing poetry and about the what poetry is - possibly through guest speakers such as published poets, people with expertise in poetry, etc.
 - *Publishing our poetry:* We want to learn about publishing our poetry - possibilities, copyright issues, obstacles, etc.
 - *Possible future activities:* We had a lively discussion and presentation of ideas about what we might do as a group.
 - Either meet regularly or have special poetry readings/performances at the Blue Cow Coffee Company (located in the building outside the Library)
 - Sponsor children's poetry activities
 - Publish a book of poetry of our "members" (perhaps similar to but not necessarily the same as cookbooks prepared by churches and other groups)
 - Other activities that will promote the cultural life of our community, especially poetry, but perhaps other writing as well.

- **Decisions and agreements made at the meeting**
 - *Membership?* For the time being we decided **not** to have an official membership to our group (membership cards, etc.), but simply allow people to come to the meetings to read and listen to poetry and to maintain a mailing list of anyone who wants notifications, etc. from the group.
 - *Who can attend meetings and belong to our group?* Anyone can attend meetings (don't have to be DeSoto resident) as long as they are respectful of participants and their poems. We decided to make the group for adults for the time being and perhaps to start or sponsor a children's group later.
 - *What will we do at meetings?*
 - We will read our poems and others will listen and be positive and supportive and only give critiques when it they are requested by the poet.
 - We will take care of any "business" procedural at some point during the meeting.
 - We will have poetry reading at the beginning of the meeting and perhaps later or the end if so desired.
 - We will have some kind of "learning about poetry" activity. The first of these will be presented by Kay Parsons at the next meeting (January 10, 2011).
 - We will discuss publishing options, strategies, and suggestions at some meetings when the group desires.
 - Order of meeting activities - The following was discussed as a possible order of our meeting - we can decide to change it if we wish:
 - Reading of some poems
 - "Business" matters - things we want to do in our meetings and activities for the future
 - "Learning about poetry" activity including discussion
 - More reading of poems
 - *Who will be our contact person and help to organize activities?* Glenn Currier was chosen by the group. Glenn will maintain an email list, send out emails notifying folks about meetings and activities, etc. He has a website - <http://www.toCreate.net> - that he offered as a place for people participating in our group to have their poems published. Elizabeth Hobbs provided a poem that will be posted there. Glenn is in the process of creating web pages for our group.
 - *Next Meeting:* The next meeting will be Monday January 10, 2011 at 6:30pm in the DeSoto Public Library Quiet Reading Room. Thanks again to Lucile Dade for allowing us to meet in the library for our next meeting.
 - *Role of the DeSoto Public Library:* The library director, Lucile Dade, was in attendance at the meeting and said that the library would support the group by putting meeting announcements on their webpage and in other ways that seem appropriate to the library management and staff. She is helping to find a regular

meeting place for our group, although it is questionable whether we will be able to meet regularly in the library due to a lack of space and other factors.

- *Naming the Group*: We decided to put off the naming of our group until a future meeting.

- **For future meetings**
 - **The naming of our group**
 - Where we might meet on a regular basis
 - Activities we might want to sponsor
 - Meeting order, activities, and procedures: more discussion things we want to do in meetings such as allowing participants to talk about their writing process, difficulties, creative process, etc.
 - Any changes in meeting time or day

- **Other matters**
 - There were a few people who were not present at our first meeting who indicated they were still interested and would try to make our next meeting
 - Please call Glenn Currier if you have any questions or concerns: 972-223-6401 (home), 972-965-3125 (cellular), email: learners@swbell.net

Please tell your friends and other interested people about our group and our next meeting. Continue to write poetry and bring poems with you to our next meeting:

- ❖ Monday, January 10 6:30-7:45pm
- ❖ DeSoto Public Library - Quiet Reading Room

Thanks for your participation and for allowing me to be our contact person.

- Glenn Currier