**Friends of Dimond Branch Library Minutes**

**August 13, 2016 @ 11:00 a.m.**

**In attendance**: Gen Katz, Karen Ball, Darshan Anant, Daphne Parson, Robin Goodfellow, Gisela Merker, Karen Long and Rebekah Eppley. (Many regular attendees are on vacation) Minutes taken by Karen Long.

***Our Thanks:*** Thanks for Dimond Branch Friends and others for all the great support you provide in the garden, sorting our donation books, and supporting our programs! (from library staff)
Thanks to the CFC Lightbulb recycling volunteers: Darshan Anant and Dick Kolbert
Thanks to the Friends for supporting our Summer Reading programs for children and adults! The adults especially love the raffle prizes.
Thanks to Herman Miller and Public Works crew and Karen Long for trimming, cutting and finally removing the tree in front. Thanks as always to David Weaver for managing the Friends’ book sale.

Thanks to the Dimond Picnic Library Outreach volunteers: Karen Marie Schroeder Rita Watson, Daphne Parson, Margaret Bray, Paul Derenthal, Sue Yascolt, Sandy Venning, Hal Briar, Karen Long, and Dick Kolbert. Thanks to the volunteer library staff too: Rebekah Eppley, Sarah Hodgson and Ashely Bonifacio.

**Budget and Hiring Updates**:

New Library Assistant, Alice McCain was introduced to group. Welcome, Alice!
 **Planned library bond measure for 2018**-Karen Long reported on a recent meeting of Friends of Oakland Public Library (FOPL) and Save Oakland Libraries (SOL). Oakland libraries have an on-going financial problem of a funding deficit that is not being covered by Measure E or the general fund of the City. Library advocates have delayed putting a library bond measure on the ballot until 2018 with city assurances of a necessary minimum support in the meantime. They plan to start organizing early to explain the financial issues involved and the need for a new library bond issue.

**Funds for library infrastructure in proposed 2016 Oakland Infrastructure bond**-Gerry Garzon, the library director, reported at the meeting that about $3 ½ million of the proposed city infrastructure bond for this fall would go for library facilities like leaky roofs, faulty elevators, etc. Gerry says the unmet library infrastructure need is close to $100 million.

**Remodel Updates: Library is now scheduled to close in December or January** (possible further delays) **Furniture update & discussion** : Rebekah Eppley reported that $25, 000 has already been donated for new library furniture. Gen Katz recommended refinishing the oak wooden chairs both to save funds and provide excellent quality chairs. She had talked to staff at the Main library about their small furniture refinishing program. She shared a picture of before/after refinishing oak wooden chair. The cost was $85 per chair in her sample. She also gave Rebekah the contact info for the refinisher of the Main library chairs. The group liked the idea of recycling the wooden chairs when possible so asked Rebekah to pass the information along to the remodeling planners. Karen Long also reported that she had been informed that if the furniture fundraising campaign did not raise the needed amount ($200,000 ?) as much furniture as possible could be purchased as the available funds allowed.

**Exterior Front of Library Free Book Drop Discussion**: Rebekah Eppley along with Daphne Parson and Karen Long reported that there is an increasing problem with the free book drop bin plus the whole library entrance area with garbage, clothing, household goods, magazines, huge numbers of boxes of old text books, etc. The library staff is

**( Front of Library discussion continued)** spending a lot of time in cleanup, and volunteers like Daphne and Karen are also doing so. The group liked the idea of the free book bin (or perhaps a book case) , but agreed with library staff that the current situation is out of control. The group also felt that the library staff should determine the policy on the front door area. Rebekah reported that a new media return bin will be coming this fall. When that happens, the library staff recommends removing the free book bin, replacing it with the new media bin, and putting the large jade plant on the front edge along with a large permanent sign indicating that donated books can be placed in the library, other locations for recycling clothing, electronics, household goods, and that all items left there would be considered illegal dumping.

**Calendar**: Upcoming Closures

September 6th and 9th library closed for Labor Day and Admission day

**Library Programs (August - September)** See calendar

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Report:** 4 members of TAB accompanied by their advisor, Ashley Bonafacio, shared their current activities and programs with the group.

* A back to school poster/window display with a Pokemon theme
* Making library/teen buttons for distribution & helping with outreach @ Oaktoberfest
* Organizing SAT prep workshops at the library for teens
* Helping with voter registration before the fall election (Member Sandy Venning will assist)

The group thanked them for their efforts, and offered to help pay for buttons and workshops.

**Dimond Friends Updates**:

Volunteers needed for **Oakland Branch Libraries table @ Oaktoberfest** on October 1. Ronile Lahte from the Branch Friends Network and Friends of Oakland Public Libraries will be organizing a library outreach table with information, games and Activities. She would like volunteers from our group and other branches to assist her. Friends of Dimond Library will not have its usual table. :

**Library T-shirts available** (fundraiser for FOPL): Adult T-shirts are $15 and childrens’ are $10. Purchase from the library.

**Garden update**: Hayward Blake has requested a $150 new pole saw for pruning and maintaining trees in the library garden. Herman Miller and city public works/parks and recreation staff have removed three overgrown trees from the library garden, pruned the ivy and cut weeds back in the library parking lot. They have also worked on the irrigation system in the garden, but more needs to be done.

**Volunteers for Remodeling New Furniture campaign** (led by Sara Dubois): Sara plans to have mostly internet based fundraising with several other activities in the furniture fundraising campaign. She plans to do most of this when the library is closed (December or January start?). Several volunteers have already offered their help but more would be great!

**Possible future changes in Friends’ book sale**: Library staff will not be able to collect book sale money so a locked money box with an honor system will be put in place. There will also be less room for the book sale after the remodeling (probably 1 book case less?). Karen suggested discussing raising the price of our books to $.25 for paper back and $.50 for hard back. The group wanted to be sure that children’s books remain available, and will make a decision at the next meeting in November.

**Financial Report** by Karen Marie Schroeder, Treasurer. See separate report.

 **Current expenditures (pending)**

$200 Stipend for Laxman Pranthi’s Family Yoga Program (2 sessions)

$250 Camera for documenting children’s programs

$150 Licensing fee for “This Changes Everything” Film showing in June

$150 Video Games for new Teen Game Day program (starting in June)

$50 Art supplies for Teen display board

$100 Baby Sign Language program with Erin Carper (September)

$100 Adult Summer Reading prizes

$100 Kids Summer Reading Program Raffle Prizes for Dimond Branch

$75 Prizes for Chess Tournament

**New Funding Requests**:

$30 Lock box for Friends book sale money

$200 for story time materials (puppets and scarves) and refresh of post-storytime playtime toys

$150 for pole saw for garden (Hayward Blake’s request)

$200 Kenmore Bagged Upright Vacuum Cleaner

$75 Gift for Bruce Thompson

$75 (protective transit bags for video game consoles)

$100 Grecian Goeke ESL Workshop: ESL conversational group & several people know presenter.

$200 Books for Senior Book Group at WoodPark Agesong

Total Requested: $1030

All present voted in favor of these new funding requests.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:27 am.

 **Next quarterly meeting date: November 12th 2016**