

Friends of Dimond Branch Library Minutes

February 3, 2018, 11-12:35 am

In attendance: Dick Kolbert, Amy Johnson, Shahana Sarkar, Daphne Parson, Darshan Anant, Elena Loera, Steve Perrier, Gisela Marker, Hayward Blake, Suzanne Knott, Tom Rose, Karen Marie Schroeder, Sarah Hodgson, Ashley Bonifacio and two members of the Teen Board, and Karen Long. Dick Kolbert took the minutes.

Thanks to the Dimond Branch Library friends who brought cookies to the winter family holiday program in December: Sandy Venning*, Sharon Lawless, Chris Woodside*, Daphne Parson, Karen Marie Schroeder*, Dick Kolbert* and Karen Long*. Thanks also to those who stayed to enjoy the program and help with the cookie distribution (people with *s). And thanks to Miriam Medow for organizing this program.

Thanks to the people who are helping with watering dry areas in the library garden this winter: Sandy Venning, Margaret Bray and Rita Watson. Thanks to Shahana Sarkar for her extensive research for bags for sale/distribution for the Friends' group.

Thanks to Amy Johnson for volunteering to be on the City Library Commission representing our area and for her leading a student workshop on college application essays in November.

Thanks also to Karen Marie Schroeder for bringing cookies and scones as refreshments to our meetings.

Secretary Process: Dick Kolbert volunteered to take notes during the meeting.

Dimond Branch Updates:

Staff updates: Michelly Gonzales-Caldwell is Dimond's new Senior Library Assistant. Mahasin Aleem was promoted as the Children's Librarian I at the Children's Room at the Main Library. Dimond now has a PPT Library Assistant vacancy for 30 hours/wk. PPT Library Aide Alex Shen will be "acting up" as Library Assistant two days per week. We hope to have some new Library Aides on staff as of February 10.

Sarah Hodgson also announced that Gerry Garzon, Director of all the Oakland Public Libraries will be retiring in March. Mary Schrader, long-time Dimond Branch children's librarian, branch manager and recently the liaison for the branch remodeling will also be retiring in March.

We have new shades in the Children's area and new meeting room tables. These funds came from a recent \$5,000 donation from a foundation. Dimond Library's renovation is now almost complete.

Library Programs: February Calendar and a few highlights for March and April. Sarah Hodgson shared new programs such as the Teen Scape Radio workshop and the new Adult Clothing Swap.

Teen Advisory Board update: Ashley Bonifacio and two members of the Teen Board (Ashley &) shared their recent activities:

- A visit to Cal Academy
- Organizing and participating in SCRATCH: a coding project
- Setting up a teen 3-D printing program
- Celebrating Poetry Month (April) with Black Out Poetry
- Volunteering with the Oakland Running Festival (marathon, etc).
- Running the Summer Teen Reading program which is a big success

Dimond Library Friends' Updates:

School Tutoring Program @ Dimond Branch: The email voting of membership in January resulted in approval for the proposed tutoring program after school on Tuesdays and led by a professional tutor from the Aspire Program. The program will start next week.

June Parcel Tax proposed for increased city library funding: Hayward Blake shared information about Oakland Library financial problems—a \$3 + million dollar budget shortfall even including Measure Q funding. If funding is not increased, there will be severe budget cuts including possible library closures, reduced hours, and decreased public access to the libraries. Hayward representing local leaders explained that a parcel tax of \$75 is being proposed for the June ballot. It would raise \$10 million annually to allow the libraries to expand hours, prevent closures, maintain children's reading programs and generally increase library access. Hayward requested FODL financial support to help put this measure on the June ballot. This campaign will take significant funding to be on the ballot. Hayward distributed informational flyers.

After discussion, the group voted to donate \$3500 to the proposed library parcel tax campaign. Individuals can also make separate donation. More advocacy will be needed later in the spring.

Possible sale of bags or free distribution of other items to support Dimond Library Friends: Shahana Sarkar presented her research on foldable Chico bags and passed around samples. The group liked the bags but felt the \$10 price was high for the large bags as was the \$8 price for the smaller ones. After discussion, the group decided not to fund bag purchase as a fund raiser at this time. Shahana also presented several items for possible "give aways": large plastic clips, and book marks with flower seeds implanted. These were much less expensive and the group was interested. Sarah Hodgson will contact Helen Krahenhoff re: designing a new Friends of Dimond Library or Dimond Library logo. After the logo is complete, group will make a decision about the freebies. Shahana was thanked for her extensive research.

Report on bathroom upgrades: new mirrors/tables in both bathrooms. Sarah Hodgson reported that she had asked Public Works for help on removing on mirrors and installing new ones. She had not yet gotten a response. Group will look at possible new mirrors at next meeting.

Library Garden update: Karen would like to have a garden work day in March to finish planting the front garden area and to distribute mulch and general garden cleanup.

Book Donation Guidelines: Sarah Hodgson would like the Friends to review and approve new guidelines for materials donated to the book sale. The group approved the new guidelines. There was also discussion about the dumping of books, magazines and other clothing, items, etc. outside the library front door. Sarah explained that it took staff time to clean up and remove these items on a daily basis. After a group discussion, the group decided to ask for volunteers from our membership to help keep the front of the library cleaned up. Karen Marie Schroeder also reminded the group that the Keep Dimond Clean crew also helped to clean up the front of the library several times per week.

Financial Report by Karen Marie Schroeder, Treasurer. See separate report. FODL account has \$23,182 balance as of 2/3/2018.

Pending

\$300 Teen party or volunteer recognition

\$150 Games for Branch

\$150 Art supplies for teen programs

\$94 Art supplies for monthly Crafternoon programs

\$100 January fix-it clinic lunches for volunteers

\$100 Family Yoga program

\$150 Button maker supplies

\$250 Thingamajigs musical instrument-making program in February

\$250 JingMo Lion Dance performance on 3/3

\$500 Garden consultation and new plants for front garden and walkway

\$2500 Mural by Deb Koppman

\$1308 wifi hotspots

\$750 Tuesday afternoon homework help with Aspire

New Funding Requests:

\$228 Teen Advisory Board Oakland Running Fest Registration (4 members)

\$25 Gift Card to Laurel Books (Blackout Poetry Contest)

\$350 Summer Teen Volunteer Party

\$100 Additional Summer Passport Prizes

\$1600 Summer Reading Performers

\$60 Child-sized toy shopping cart

\$225 AARP Safe Driving Course (pays for 15 people to take the course)

\$25 Refreshments for March hike program

\$50 Refreshments for Mary Schrader's retirement party on March 10 (6:30 pm)

\$100 Family Yoga

\$2753 TOTAL

These new funding requests were unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 a.m.

Next meeting date: Saturday, May 12 at 11 am