

Friends of Dimond Branch Library Minutes

Saturday, February 23, 2019, 11am-12:20 a.m.

In attendance: Margaret Bray, Stephanie Woodbury, Gisela Merker, Darshan Anant, Mary Schrader, Hayward Blake, Sandy Venning, Tom Rose, Suzanne Knott, Karen Marie Schroeder, Sharon Lawless, Shahana Sarkar, Amy Johnson, Karen Long, Sarah Hodgson (Branch manager), and Rebekah Eppley, senior librarian.

Thanks to the Dimond Branch Library friends...

Thanks to the holiday cookie crew who made cookies and help to host the December family holiday celebration at the library: Mary Schrader, Chris Woodside, Darshan Anant, Dick Kolbert, Sandy Venning, and Gisela Merker. Special thanks to Karen Marie Schroeder who brought cookies and help to coordinate the volunteers. Also thanks to Miriam Meddow, Children's librarian, for wonderful story telling.

Special thanks to the **front of the library clean-up crew** who have been cleaning weekly for 6 months now: Tom Rose, Suzanne Knott, Daphne Parson and Margaret Bray. Sarah Hodgson says the entry area dumping is much improved.

Thanks for the garden clean up crew who spent a December morning spreading new mulch, raking leaves and cleaning up the outside emergency exit area: Dick Kolbert, Karen Marie Schroeder, Hayward Blake, Sandy Venning (& Bill), and Karen Long. Sandy & Bill's wheel barrow was a great help! Thanks also to Deidre Martin and Kevin Charles in Oakland Public Works/Parks for providing a truckload of excellent mulch & a garden waste pickup. Thanks also to Marion Mills & Keep Oakland Beautiful for a donation of daffodils.

Always thanks to David Weaver who runs our ongoing Friends' book sale and works daily on it. Ongoing thanks to our treasurer, Karen Marie Schroeder who wraps all of the book sale coins, goes weekly to the bank, and arranges all of the payments for funded library activities. She also provides special home-made treats at our meetings.

A final thanks to Jessie, our volunteer computer tutor on Saturday mornings. Her assistance is very helpful & popular.

Secretary Process: Sharon Lawless volunteered to take minutes during the meeting.

Dimond Branch Updates:

Disarm, Divest, Dismantle workshop proposal for Dimond Branch – Rebekah Eppley explained the possible 3 hour experiential workshop on the role of the white community towards racial

justice and liberation. that a local person, S.Rae Peoples has offered to give at the library. The program would be limited to 25 people and would cost \$25 per person.

Measure D updates and OPL extended hours. The new hours should go into effect in April. Dimond Branch would be open 1 more day per week and two nights per week (Tuesday and Wednesday) with longer hours (from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.)

Jamie Turbak is the new Oakland Public Library Director!

OUSD Strike and the Library- the library staff and the nearby recreation center staff have prepared activities and snacks for young people if the teachers' strike continues. Children under 8 years of age would need to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

Oakland Public Library Annual Report for 2018 available. It includes system wide new programs and financial information.

Staff updates:

Dimond currently has two permanent part-time Library Assistant vacancies and will have two full-time Librarian vacancies starting in April. Teen Librarian Ashley Bonifacio will be transferring to a part time position at Lakeview branch. We will have more permanent and permanent part-time Aide positions at the branch once hours are extended. Sarah Hodgson reported that there would be 3 unfilled positions to start off with but temporaries would be hired to fill in. She was very pleased with two of the staff who would be increasing work hours.

Library Programs: March - April calendar highlights

- This afternoon at Dimond Branch a creative book mark making workshop is being held for adults from 2-4.
- Next week the Teen program is having a virtual reality demonstration.
- A new ESL conversation group has started on Saturdays & has 4-5 participants so far. Karen Marie Schroeder, a retired ESL teacher, offered to help with the program.
- March 9 @ 10 a.m. there will be a medicinal plant walk in Dimond Park.
- February 26, Sida Salazar, a local author, will be doing a book release at the library, discussing her new book: The Moon Within. The book is getting a good response and is for young people.

Sharon Lawless inquired about the possible **summer lunch program** @ Dimond Branch. Sarah Hodgson said that there had not been one last summer because our area did not have sufficient need. Sarah Hodgson said she would inquire again for this year. Karen Long who volunteers at the Alameda County Community Food Bank offered to ask there as well.

Teen Advisory Board update: The teen librarian, Ashleigh, is transferring to Lakeshore Library to have reduced work hours in April. Some teen programming will continue in her absence. It may take time to get a replacement teen librarian.

Dimond Library Friends' Updates:

New—a yearly budget review—what we authorized and spent in 2018. Sarah Hodgson shared a new spreadsheet format for tracking Friends of Dimond Library authorized and actual expenditures. (See authorized spending lists totaling \$11,453 for 2018 and new spreadsheet). The group liked the idea of a yearly budget review and the spreadsheet. Shahana Sarkar offered to help Sarah Hodgson organize the spreadsheet format to make it easier to use and understand.

Library volunteers (1-2) wanted: person(s) to sort weekly the cart of donated books & materials into book sale items, recycling & other. Best times: Friday or Saturday morning. Six members volunteered to help with this project. Sarah Hodgson will contact them, and organize some training and a schedule. Thanks!

Two tickets are available for FODL members for the 81st Ave Library's showing of **The Public** on March 11 at 6:30pm—the film on public libraries—with a Q & A afterwards with the director & the book's author. Sandy Venning and Stephanie Woodbury are both interested. Margaret Bray and Karen Long may be able to attend if space allows. The group also wondered if it might be possible to show the film at Dimond Branch as well.

Library Garden update:

Karen planted 30 daffodils in the garden donated by Marion Mills & Keep Oakland Beautiful. They are blooming now & are lovely. Thanks!

About \$50 for some new flowering plants for center of new section in front of library. The lantanas in the center have not been doing well this winter and need to be replaced.

Several volunteers to help remove ivy from overgrown plants and fences (only 2-3 on a Friday morning). Date is flexible. Sandy Venning, Tom Rose and Hayward Blake offered to help Karen Long on a Friday morning when the parking lot is generally free.

Hayward Blake reported that several trees in Dimond Park have fallen on nearby buildings (a Montessori School). No one was injured, but other old, unstable trees need to be removed in the park. He also said there are several old, semi-dead trees on the library grounds that should be removed. He recommended talking to our local city council representatives about the hazards.

Financial Report by Karen Marie Schroeder, Treasurer

Our current Bank of America account balance is \$26, 040.69

Pending

\$2500 Mural by Deb Koppman (on indefinite hold)

\$1000 Branch furniture

\$150 Teen Craft/Art Supplies & storage containers

\$100 Teen Program Snacks

\$1000 for adult collection of books/music by Oakland artists

\$200 for two Making Products with Natural Ingredients programs

\$200 for a refresh of branch toys

\$1500 for Summer Reading performers

\$ 6650 total pending

New requests

\$100 for Adult Yoga program (6 sessions)

\$150 for super high-interest slime ingredients for monthly Slime Club

\$200 for Creative Movement class in May with Kat Healy—3 sessions for pre-schoolers

\$625 for 25 people to attend a 3-hour Workshop entitled, *Disarm, Divest, Dismantle: The Role of the White Community Towards Racial Justice and Liberation* . The group would like more detailed information about this program and some type of follow-up. *We asked it be removed from the new request list and would like to discuss it in more detail at our next meeting.*

\$350 for Summer Teen Volunteer appreciation party

\$50 for TAB Simple Circuit program . Increased amount to \$100

\$50 for plants

\$50 gift card for Jessie Sondheimer, our exceptional volunteer computer tutor

\$ 1000 total for new requests

\$ 7650 total for new and pending requests

Next meeting date: Saturday, May 11 at 11 am

Meeting adjourned @ 12:20 a.m.