

Friends of Dimond Branch Library Minutes

Saturday, August 3, 2019 (11 am – 12:15)

In attendance: Suzanne Knott, Tom Rose, Rebekah Eppley, Myra Kaplan, Chuck Busch, Jean Busch, Sharon Lawless, Sue Yascolt, Karen Marie Schroeder, Mary Schrader Sandy Venning, Stephanie Woodbury, and Karen Long.

Thanks to the Dimond Branch Library friends...

May 31st Major Garden Cleanup – Margaret Bray, Joanne Yoshioka, Hayward Blake, Dick Kolbert, Sandy Venning & Bill, Hall & Madeleine Briar, and Karen Long

Friends' Library Outreach table at Dimond Picnic in the Park: Darshan Anant, Daphne Parson, Sharon Lawless, Sara Newman, and Karen Long. Special thanks to the library staff: Sarah Hodgson & Miriam Medow.

Dimond Library Clean-up volunteers: Suzanne Knott, Tom Rose, and Margaret Bray.

Book sorting and recycling volunteers: Mary Schrader, Suzanne Knott, Tom Rose, Stephanie Woodbury, and Amy Johnson.

Secretary Process: Volunteer needed to take notes during the meeting.

Dimond Branch Updates:

Dimond still has two full-time librarian vacancies. The job announcement for Librarian I was posted at the end of July.

Library Programs: August- November calendar highlights- Rebekah Eppley reviewed upcoming fall library programs. The group was particularly interested in the AARP Senior Driving Class in early October, a new Wednesday adult writing group (led by Rebekah), a Monday morning Tai Chi class led by Jenn Bienh and some of the children's programs including the slime group. A new film series for teens will also begin. Sue Yascolt asked if there could be a film series for adults as well. Rebekah thought it was an interesting idea but would need to wait until the library staffing issues are resolved.

Teen Advisory Board update: a staff person from the Main Library is coming on Saturdays to help with the teen program as there is no teen librarian as of now. The group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month so was not available to meet with us. Rebekah said the library staff would like to request teen art work to decorate the teen area.

Dimond Library Friends' Updates:

Mural update: we are waiting approval by the Public Art Commission and working on the licensing agreement with the city. There will be a city public art committee meeting in the next few weeks. Kristin, the city staff person, is hopeful that Debbie Koppman's art mural will be approved in the near future. Rebekah shared pictures of the proposed double mural for the library which we agreed to help fund 2 years ago.

Need canopy for outreach tables and local activities. Karen Long reported that in consultation with Sarah Hodgson she had purchased a canopy for all outdoor outreach programs. The canopy will be stored in the library.

August 10 Laurel Street Fair – Friends of Dimond Library will have a booth at the fair next weekend. Five people have volunteered so far. Karen said a few more would be great but no one was available. Mary Schrader said that outreach staff from the Oakland Public Library (OPL) would also have a table. She gave Karen contact information for two of the staffers. Karen had requested that the Dimond Library table be next to/near the OPL one. The OPL staff had said that the logistics for setup/takedown on MacArthur Blvd were not good on Saturday so they were planning on taking materials in on Friday for storage in the area. They also can help setup the new canopy (takes 3 people). Karen was very appreciative and said she would call them early next week to work out details. Rebekah also reported that library staff had obtained small prizes for kids to play the spinning wheel game.

Oaktoberfest on 10/5-10/6 – Lower fees available (\$200 + \$8 processing fee) for nonprofits. No canopy offered at this price. We'll share with Friends of Oakland Library/OPL Advocates who will take Sunday. Karen will ask for volunteers in mid-September for our booth. Do Dimond Friends want to sponsor an act on the Family Stage? Last year the cost was \$400. This year the act that Miriam Medow wants would cost \$450. The group decided not to fund a performance this year just to pay the basic nonprofit fee. The library already allows free use of the parking lot for Oaktoberfest activities.

Budget changes: Mirror requests (\$200) removed from pending items – city is replacing bathroom mirrors

Teen summer reading prizes (\$100) removed from pending items – enough central prizes available. Rebekah reviewed these changes, and the group approved them.

Report on Branch Friends meeting from Karen. She explained that she had attended the biannual Branch Friends' network meeting in June chaired by Sara Dubois. About 43 people attended from all of the various branch friends' groups plus a new one for the Main Library. All of the groups shared their experiences. A special presentation was done by a small group who has been using social media to encourage a younger, more diverse group to participate in library activities and the friends' groups.

- Sharon Lawless asked that the group be notified of future branch friends' network meetings as she and others might be interested in attending.

- Stephanie Woodbury offered to invite parents at the very popular children's story time on Wed. mornings that she attends with a grandchild.
- Suzanne Knott suggested tabling for future discussion an effort to recruit more young, diverse members.
- Karen reported that Friends of Dimond Library has received many compliments for being the most active, effective, responsible branch friends' group.

Any Library Commission updates? Amy Johnson, our library commission representative, was unable to attend due to car problems. She will report at our next meeting.

Library Garden update: Karen reported on the history of her work with the garden and its defective irrigation system. After 10 years, Public Works/Parks has been doing some work recently. Thank you, Kevin Charles!

A new irrigation control system has been installed at the library and several new (old) irrigation sprinkler heads have been discovered. After they were flagged, Karen dug them out. The system is much improved except for one area by the Vet Clinic where the line was discovered but no sprinkler heads have so far been located.

New garden section? In the section to the left of the library entry (by the clinic), there were 3 large shrubs that hid the remaining area. Sarah Hodgson said that she would like them removed for better site security. The city did thin all of the trees so the library name is now visible, and cut out the 3 large shrubs, but the roots still remain. Roto Rooter was hired by the city to repair the library sewer line that runs thru this section of the garden. They located the irrigation line and water lines. Hopefully Public Works/Parks will finish by removing the large stumps/roots and locating the sprinkler heads in this area. A lot of the area now looks like barren dirt. After that Karen would like to sheet mulch the area for several months and replace it with a new garden section. The group discussed getting Trish Cunningham to advise the proposed new section.

Financial Report by Karen Marie Schroeder, Treasurer Our current balance is \$43,422 (Karen made a significant donation for work on the garden)

Pending

\$2500 Mural by Deb Koppman

\$1346 Branch furniture

\$150 Teen Craft/Art Supplies & storage containers (request to repurpose these funds to TAB project) This repurpose would be for TAB students to give middle school students back to school gift bags.

\$100 Teen Program Snacks

\$1000 adult collection of books/music by Oakland artists . Note: this is limited to artists living in Oakland.

\$350 Summer Teen Volunteer appreciation party (request to postpone this to December because of staffing issues.) This would become a holiday celebration for the volunteers including both the summer and the fall teen volunteers.

\$375 for 15 people to attend a 3-hour Workshop entitled, *Disarm, Divest, Dismantle*: The Role of the White Community Towards Racial Justice and Liberation

\$225 for AARP Safe Driver Course in October

\$100 for supplies for Dimond history archive

\$180 for ½ of professional tree trimmer for garden (for Hayward Blake to replace stolen equipment) We proposed half payment as he uses this tool about twice a year at the library.

\$100 for adult summer reading prizes

\$ 6426 total pending

New requests

\$200 outreach giveaways for Laurel street fair and Oaktoberfest (temporary tattoos, lollipop display w lollipops for on-the-spot raffle, and model magic packs for prizes)

\$230 for Oaktoberfest table & space

\$218 Pop-up canopy for outreach events

\$100 Slime supplies for craft program (4 sessions)

\$100 Snacks for afternoon movie series (4 sessions)

\$400 Drag Queen Story Hour holiday event

\$100 Four 3D pens and filament for craft programming (Rebekah demonstrated pens!)

\$250 Creative Crafts for Adults program (September–December)

\$100 Stipend for Jenn Biehn for Tai Chi class (September–October) class Mondays from 10 – 11:15

\$250 for new plants for garden

\$ 1948 total for new requests

\$ 8374 total for new and pending requests

Karen asked for a group vote on the new requests. All were approved.

Next meeting date: Saturday, November 9, at 11 am (Veteran's Day weekend?)