

## Minutes of Friends of Dimond Library Virtual Meeting on 11/7/2020

Meeting was held on zoom and began at 11:00 a.m. with initial greetings.

**In attendance:** Sarah Hodgson, Karen Long, Karen Marie Schroeder, Gen Katz, Sharon Lawless, Stephanie Woodbury, Suzanne Knott, Tom Rose, Gisela Merker, Jean Busch, Margaret Bray, Sandy Venning, Madeleine Briar, Darshan Anant, and Daphne Parson.

**Dimond Library Activities Update:** Sarah Hodgson reviewed current library updates. More information is available on the Oakland Public Library (OPL) website.

- A virtual Mindfulness workshop will be held on November 17 from 5:30- 6:15. Sarah said she attended a previous one on election night that was helpful.
- Dimond Library Adult Book club will meet virtually on Wednesday, November 18 @6:30. Rebekah Eppley is doing a read-aloud program of short stories during the pandemic. Several participants highly recommended it.
- Several children's activities are listed on the website.
- On the OPL website, there are currently some interesting blogs including local history and materials displayed for Indian Heritage Month
- Kanopy is a program for free films, also magazines and newspapers such as NY Times are available.
- In response to a question about finding new books, Sarah suggested looking at the community tags towards the bottom of the OPL book search screen. Also Novelis (sp?) could be helpful Sarah will send out more info on this resource.
- Library staffing: Sarah reported that all permanent staff had continued to work with some changes in activities. The temporary workers were not employed but given an option to return. Some of them have chosen to return now. There is no hiring freeze but the focus is on circulation and the outside pick-up program. The current circulation is 25-33% of what it had been pre-pandemic.
- Karen Long mentioned the virtual holiday celebration of Friends of the Oakland Public Library and OPL advocates in early December. They will have library presenters and some information about new programs plus the youth poet laureate among others. Several people requested receiving an invitation.

**Update on Dimond Library status:** Sarah reports that the library will remain closed with continuing outdoor pick-up between 9 -3 pm through the end of this year. Depending on what Alameda County Health Department and the Oakland Public Library administration determine, the library may reopen in January. If so, it would be at 25% capacity including library staff. (about 32 people total)

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Marie Schroeder reported that the current FODL bank balance is \$51,691.12. The most recent expenditures: \$2500 to Debbie Koppman for the completed garden mosaic and \$170 for a new microwave for the library staff room.

**Library Garden Report:** Karen Long reviewed the current status of the new garden section near the entrance to the library. Debbie Koppman completed the butterfly mosaic, but it had to be placed in a different location than planned due to underground pipes. It's now more in the center of the garden. Trisha Christopher, local landscape architect, has been asked to adjust her previous garden plans for this

change. Oakland's Public Works/Parks department (Kevin Charles) has said that his staff will rototill the soil adding compost, put burlap bags on top to prevent weeds, and bring mulch to put on top. Karen didn't know if they will distribute the mulch or library volunteers will do it. The new planting will come from a wholesale nursery. Karen will get some help from a local gardener in the planting. She will let FODL know about the plant costs & any installation costs. She would like this to be completed this year.

Karen also asked for volunteers to help plant 50 daffodil bulbs donated from Keep Oakland Beautiful and to cut out ivy around the base of some garden bushes. Sandy Venning, Margaret Bray and Suzanne H. volunteered to help. Karen said she would be in touch with them as we want to keep social distance on this project.

**New Budget requests:**

\$50	new seeds for seed lending library
\$170	switch pro controllers
\$100	small holiday giveaways for kids
<u>\$245</u>	<u>switch games</u>
\$565	Total

The group unanimously approved these new budget requests.

**Pending (and approved) budget requests.** Sarah explained that most of these items especially the summer reading program activities have been either cancelled or delayed. She would like to keep them in the pending budget until next year after the library reopens so that the programs could resume when possible. The group also approved this request.

Sharon Lawless wanted to compliment the library staff for the friendly and very helpful library book pick-up program.

Friends of Dimond Library meeting ended @ 11:50. The next meeting date TBA.

Minutes taken by Karen Long