

Dimond Friends Virtual Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2021

11 am

In Attendance: Karen Marie Schroeder, Tom Rose, Suzanne Knott, JoAnn Yoshioka, Sandy Venning, Lisette Perez, Gisela Merker, Hal and Madeleine Briar, Gen Katz, Jean Busch, Daphne Parson, Sarah Hodgson (branch manager) and Karen Long.

Minutes taken by Karen Long

Thanks to the Dimond Branch Library friends... Thanks for the garden volunteers: Steve Perrier, Tom Rose, Madeline & Hal Briar who volunteered 3 mornings to clear the new side of the library garden section. Lisette Perez also helped in the main garden.

Thanks to the library staff who worked so hard to keep things together during the pandemic and partial library closure. Our friends' group really appreciates all of their hard work.

Dimond Branch Updates:

Extended hours and collections and services update- As of June 15, the library has returned to its regular hours including late nights on Tuesday and Wednesday and being closed on Friday mornings for meetings.

Intro to staff – Sarah Hodgson showed pictures of all of the new staff and all of the current staff. Griffin Stoss is the new teen librarian, Nathan Perry (and his new baby girl), and Shakira is the new security person.

New Equipment/materials:

1. The library has a new scan and print station which is easy to use, free and popular.
2. A new mobile printer- allows printing transfer to phone or can print in library (for a fee)
3. Chrome books are again available for checkout for 1 week
4. Children's toys are again available to check out
5. New backpacks from East Bay Regional Parks are available for checkout. They include binoculars, maps, a parking pass, etc. to encourage park exploration.

Upcoming Programs: (all are virtual except the computer assistance)

8/17 East Bay Regional Parks naturalist talk on flies @ 6:30-7:30. If interested sign up at engagement@oaklandlibrary.org or ask at library

7/18 Rebekah Eppley is continuing her adult short story read aloud program at 6:30. If you are not signed up already, contact Rebekah at reppey@oaklandlibrary.org

New Book talk on ***Be Scared of Everything***, a new horror book from Folklard Book Club. Call Christy Thomas at 510-238-6570. Unsure date

Library computer assistance by staff is again available. Ask at reference desk.

Dimond Library Friends' Updates:

Our book sale resumed 7/15. The children's books are very popular, and we have sold a lot of them. **We started taking new donations this week.**

Seed donation report back from Rebekah

Thanks for all the seeds! We have six seed libraries in the OPL system. I've been buying seeds from Botanical Interests because they have high quality organic seeds. However, they're also fairly expensive and after purchasing this last round I noticed they were somewhat stingy in the number of seeds per packet. And, I asked for a donation and they said they don't make donations which also seems rather stingy. For this next round I'd like to purchase from Ace because they've been very generous with Pete at Chavez and give him donations. (I don't think they have enough donations for six branches, though which is why I'm requesting funds for seeds).

When the seeds arrive I divide them six ways, put them in coin envelopes and send a supply to each seed library. The King branch just started a garden and I believe Melrose has a garden as well in addition to the seed libraries. The other branches with seed libraries are 81st, Chavez, African American Museum and Library (although they seem to have their own supply of seeds). Golden Gate is starting a seed library.

Library Garden update: We have received lots of compliments about our garden especially the Monarch butterfly mosaic section complete with several milk weed plants. We're working on a new side of the library by the parking lot section with a possible medicinal plant garden and a vegetable garden.

Volunteer needs: We will need a few volunteers to help spread compost on the new garden section after Public Works rototills it and delivers the compost. Library staff recommends testing the soil also. Karen Long explained that she is tentatively planning to do this on Friday August 20. She asked for volunteers.

She also said that planters had been recommended for the new section by the parking lot. Sarah Hodgson knows an organization that trains volunteers to build planters. We also might want to find a local person to could build them (and we could pay them).

Financial Report by Karen Marie Schroeder, Treasurer

Karen Marie reported that we have \$51,577.27 in our bank account now. She was happy about the positive response to the resumption of the Friends' book sale recently especially for the children's books. She also has thanked several local people for their generous donations to the Friends and the library.

Budget:
New Requests

\$100 Seeds for the Seed Library
\$100 Games for Teen Indie Role Playing Game Night
\$850 Play Station 5, extra controller and four games
\$75 wireless microphone headset and amplifier for outdoor programs
\$500 new books for local book collection
Total: \$1625

Group voted and unanimously approved these new requests

Pending from 2020 (and ordered recently)

\$2288 Branch furniture (table for returns for interior book drop)
On order actual cost is \$812
\$400 Magnet with new hours (previously approved amount \$400 for Magnet) (1000)
On order new estimate is for \$475
(Sarah shared a picture of the new magnets)

On hold from 2020 We decided to keep the funding for four of our previously approved programs/summer activities and drop the remainder since they were approved 18 months ago and would not be implemented until summer 2022. Highlighted items were retained!
Total for retained items below: \$478. This was approved.

\$100 Teen Program Snacks
\$100 Supplies for Dimond history archive
\$25 Snacks for afternoon movie series (4 sessions)
\$178 Creative Crafts for Adults program
\$100 Stipend for Family Yoga program
\$100 Stipend for Tai Chi program
\$50 Materials for Making Medicinal Tea program
\$150 Supplies for Making Natural Products program (enough for 15- 20 participants)
\$100 Stipend for Knitting Circle
\$300 15 people to attend the AARP Safe Driver course (summer 2020)
Summer Reading Program
\$100 for adult raffle prizes
\$100 for children's raffle prizes
\$2050 for Children's Summer Reading programming
\$250 for 4-sessions of Scientific Adventures
\$100 for teen raffle prizes
\$350 for teen volunteer party

TOTAL approved: \$3390 (includes new requests and approved pending items)

Sarah will bring new items for summer programs to our spring 2022 meeting.

Gisela Merker suggested that Dimond Library Friends might want to offer support to other Oakland Library Friends' groups who have less funding and might need help for special projects or activities. The group generally liked the idea but said that they would like the other friends' groups to be specific in their request for funding for a specific project/activity with some details. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

Daphne Parson inquired about funding for emergency problems at library for homeless or low income people. Sarah said that there were still some funds left from our previous donation for this, but she would report if more was needed at our next meeting.

Karen Long announced that Sharon Lawless, a long-time member of our group, library patron and neighbor/friend has passed away about 10 days ago. Several people shared memories.

Next meeting Saturday, November 6 at 11 am (This may be virtual meeting depending on pandemic situation)