

Friends of Dimond Library Minutes November 6, 2021

In attendance: Jean Busch, Elena Loera, Mary Schrader Stephanie Woodbury, Karen Marie Schroeder Suzanne Knott, Tom Rose, Sandy Venning, Sarah Hodgson and Karen Long. Gisela Merker tried to attend but computer problems.....

Karen Long took the minutes.

Thanks to the Dimond Branch Library friends...Thanks to Madeleine & Hal Briar, Steve Perrier, Margaret Wray, Sandy Venning & Bill for their weeding & mulch spreading in the new garden section by the parking lot. Thanks to Shahana Sarkar for designing the new magnets with the library hours on them. Thanks to David Weaver for his organizing and running the Friends' book sale @ the library, and Karen Marie Schroeder who collects all the donated funds & deposits them.

Dimond Branch Updates:

Intro to new staff – Sunny Kim and Lily Rodriguez (Children's librarian)

And saying goodbye to:

Library Assistant Gerardo Vega who transferred to Lakeview Library for a fulltime position.

Teen Librarian Griffin Stoss is leaving the system November 5th.

Thanks to Dimond Friends! (who paid for all these items)

Magnets are here! Photos shown of the new magnets with the hours on them.

New table is here! The table is located by the inside book & media return slots.

Used new mic and headset for 2 programs already. The new children's librarian Lily Rodriguez had a very successful outdoor story time program in Dimond Park using the mic in October.

Preview of new Oakland Public Library catalog and website? Sarah Hodgson gave a detailed description and orientation to the new OPL website and catalog. It will be live on Monday 11/9. You will need to give a new password to register for this site but it is much more complete with many new features. You can stream programs, and have options on learning, events, and series of books in addition to requesting holds and locating books/materials.. Smart searches for topic areas are much more complete. You can also select a "home" branch, have a "for later" shelf. Please register & check it out!

Upcoming Programs:

Rebekah's virtual local mystery writers' program- November 10th. Will be available afterwards on library YouTube.

Short Story Read Aloud: This virtual monthly program with Rebekah will be Wednesday 11/17.

Teen DJ Radio Hour: Alex from the library staff will resume this teen program this month

December 5th- Holiday celebration of Oakland Library Advocates and OPL@ AAMLO with youth poet laureate. This excellent program will virtual again this year but is well worth attending. You will probably receive an email invitation to participate.

Dimond Library Friends' Updates:

Offering support to other Oakland Library Friends' groups who have less funding and might need help for special projects or activities. The group discussed this and decided that they would like to provide assistance for these. Karen Long described how the Rockridge Friends' group had provided \$25,000 in assistance to the branch friends' groups who applied for assistance for specific projects. Hal Hefland, the Rockridge representative, said that his group was very impressed with all of the ideas and projects of all of the applicants and so had decided to fund them all.

The group discussed the Dimond Friends' interest in continuing to support other Branch Libraries friends' activities and what it might look like. Karen will contact Sarah Dubois, the coordinator of the Branch Friends' network regarding the details of the recent Rockridge program and how we could continue to support projects or programs of other Friends groups. Karen will report on this at our next meeting in February, and we will decide how much to fund and the process. Mary Schrader pointed out the many of the programs/activities might be in the summer so the application/decision process should be done in the early spring if possible. Group agreed.

Cesar Chavez branch manager has requested some help in organizing their Friends' group & their financial situation. Karen described our past support for the Cesar Chavez Friends' group. They currently need further assistance. Karen will contact Pete Villaseñor, the library branch manager, to get more information about the current situation and what kind of help they would like. She will update this in February.

Library Garden update: Soil testing (Friends will pay for lead & other contaminant testing), clearing 2 areas for herbal medicine garden & teen vegetable garden. A consultation with 2 master gardeners is leading to new locations for gardens. The master gardeners advised that the recently cleared garden area near the parking lot was not suitable for vegetable or herbal medicine gardens as it is too shady and too close to the car exhaust from the parking lots.

Volunteer needs:

1. Karen would like help in planting 100 daffodil bulbs from Keep Oakland Beautiful. She would also like some help in clearing the new areas for the two new gardens. She will send out a request for help for this as many members could not attend the meeting this morning.
2. Karen will also ask for some gardening help on a regular basis with weeding and pruning current gardens.
3. Library assistance: Sarah has asked for help with curating the book donations for the Friends' book sale as many old "junk" books are currently being donated. This means looking for good quality books for sale and helping to dispose of "junk". Several of the

previous library volunteers said that they are interested. Stephanie Woodbury, Mary Schrader and Suzanne Knott would like to help. Tom Rose may also be available.

Financial Report: Karen Marie Schroeder reported that our Friends' group currently has \$60,000 in our account.

She also reported that she might want to change the Friends' account away from the local Bank of America because of the long lines, excessive wait times and Saturday closures. The group discusses other options including the downtown Bridge Bank and other Bank of America branches. Several people suggested discussing an account with the local Chase Bank as its lines seem much shorter than Bank of America and Wells Fargo. Nearness to the library seems important due to the regular deposits from our book sale.

New Requests

\$250 Seeds for Dimond, 81st and MLK. The seed lending libraries are very popular!

\$160. Lead & contaminant testing for 3 new garden areas including vegetable garden

\$1500 Matching grant (to match pending FOPL grant) for Intergenerational program series.

This intergenerational program was previously planned and partially funded before the pandemic. Library staff is asking for matching funds to support a program of performers and presenters in intergenerational programs. Examples of programs: a drum circle, storytelling with Stage Bridge, crafts, movement meditation, etc.

Total: \$1910.

The group discussed these new budget requests and unanimously approved the new requests.

More funds needed for emergency problems at library for homeless or low income folks? **not needed currently**

Pending

\$850 Play Station 5, extra controller and four games

\$500 New books for local book collection

Total: 1350.

On hold from 2020

\$100 Teen Program Snacks

\$178 Creative Crafts for Adults program

\$50 Materials for Making Medicinal Tea program

\$150 Supplies for Making Natural Products program (enough for 15-20 participants)

Total: \$478

Next meeting Saturday, February 19 at 11 am

Our group hopes that this meeting will be able to be held in person at the library.

