

## **Friends of Dimond Branch Library Minutes**

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 11am-12:30

**In Attendance:** Helen Bloch, Mary Schrader, Darshan Anant, Sarah Hodgson, Stephanie Woodbury, Karen Marie Schroeder, Sandy Venning, Karen Long and Sunny Kim.

Minutes taken by Mary Schrader

### **Measure Q discussion with Helen Bloch (OPL advocate representative)**

Helen reviewed Oakland library funding in general: 3 sources- city general fund, Measure Q passed in 2004 and Measure D passed 4 years ago. The parcel taxes contribute almost  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Oakland Library's budget. Measure Q will expire in 2024 but will appear on ballot this June due to strategic reasons. It will have a different name titled by county. If this is not passed (40% of budget), there will be library branch closures, reduced staff, materials and hours.

It is a \$114 tax with exemptions for low income people and others. It has citizen oversight. There is a tight timeline as main-in ballots will be mailed in early May. OPL (Oakland Public Library) Advocates need volunteers, money including social media volunteers and endorsements. The tax will need  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to pass. It has the full support of city council to be on the ballot.

After a discussion, the group unanimously voted to donate \$1000 to the library Measure Q reauthorization campaign. Suggestions were made about displaying and distributing yard signs and tabling in front of the library with information during May. More will be discussed & planned at the next Friends meeting at the end of April.

If you would like to volunteer now, please go to the OPL Advocates website below and sign **up**.

**For more information and to volunteer go to <https://www.opladvocates.org/>**

**Start of regular meeting:**

**Thanks to the Dimond Branch Library friends...**

**Friends' On-going book sale:** David Weaver and Karen Marie Schroeder

**Dimond Library Clean-up volunteers:** Suzanne Knott, Tom Rose

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

**Library garden volunteer:** Karen Long

**Secretary Process:** Mary Schrader volunteered to take minutes during the meeting.

**Dimond Branch Updates:** (from Sarah Hodgson)

Our new Teen Librarian, Mikal Hemingway should start at Dimond in the next few months.

Summer program planning is underway

**Library Programs:** February-April calendar highlights

Making Sense of Medicare, Saturday, 2/26 from 10-11:00 am

Short Story Read-Aloud, third Wednesdays at 6:30 on zoom

Teen DJ Radio Hour, third Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30 pm

**Dimond Library Friends' Updates:**

[Applying for 501\(c\)3 status: process & planning: Karen Long reviewed the 501\(c\)3 application process and issues. The Friends of Dimond Library has always used Friends of the Oakland Library as its fiscal sponsor for donations. Our donations have increased and Karen Marie Schroeder \(our treasurer\) reported a few recent issues with checks.](#)

[Karen Long reported about 501\(c\)3 application process including a short version for groups with under \\$50,000 and a much longer and more expensive version for groups with larger budgets. Our Friends' group currently has over \\$60,000 in our account mostly due to the lack of expenditures for programs/materials during the pandemic. Karen plans to consult with an accountant if any exceptions are made for groups during the pandemic in order to qualify for the short version. If not, the group will need to decide to apply for the longer 501\(c\)3 status, and get some legal help in the process. She will report again on this at our next meeting.](#)

[Proposed grant funding for other Oakland library Friends' groups:](#) Karen Long, Gisela Merker, and Stephanie Woodbury met several months ago to create an application form for some grants for lower income Friends' groups at other branches. Karen also discussed the proposal with a Rockridge Friends' representative (Hal Helfand) and with Sara Dubois, the Branch Friends' network coordinator and fund-raising coordinator at OPL. Rockridge plans to have a one year only grant program for other Friends' groups this year. FOPL (Friends of Oakland Public Library) also plans to give funds to the branch managers of the branches with the lower funding levels. Sara Dubois also consulted with Jamie Turbak, the OPL Library Director about our idea. I was told that it was a good idea but we should wait a year. We decided to wait as recommended but to start planning next fall as library programs and activities take a lot of planning time.

### **Garden update:**

1. Mulch needed in garden. Public works will provide free mulch but Karen would need volunteers to help distribute it. The mulch would help the plants and reduce water consumption. See dates below???
2. Garden pavers: the path with the pavers is very popular especially with kids but the smaller pavers are not stable. We can try replacing with larger pavers or pay for professional help. Tom Rose has donated some larger pavers so we'll try these first.
3. Two new proposed areas for a vegetable garden and a herbal medicine garden has soil tests. Unsafe amounts of lead were found so these ideas are ended. There is space for planting in the newly cleared area by the parking lot.

### **Volunteer needs:**

**Select date for mulch distribution in garden, March 4 or 11?** Karen will ask for volunteers & which dates would be best. Fridays work because the library parking lot is not used much due to staff meetings & library closure.

4. treasurer's report covering the period from 10/12/21 to today. Friends of Dimond Library currently has **\$61,324.69** in our Bank of America account. The incoming deposits were from our on-going book sales and one \$1,000 donation. No expenditures were made.

### **Pending (These items have been approved but not yet spent)**

\$1500 Intergenerational program series

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

\$500 New books for Oakland local collection

\$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)

**\$3328 total pending**

### **New requests**

\$250 Seeds for Dimond and other OPL Seed Libraries

\$48 Streaming fees for Teen DJ Radio Hour

\$2200 Two HABA Book Subject Carts – Move board books from baskets into these carts. This will allow us to keep them better organized, create smaller groupings of board books to increase browsing, and allow our aides to pull holds more easily. ·

\$1084 One Demco® Kidovation® High-Capacity Book Floor Standing Spinner – Move series paperbacks onto the spinners to free up shelf space.

#### Summer Reading Program

\$100 for adult raffle prizes

\$100 for children's raffle prizes

\$100 for teen raffle prizes

\$2500 for Children's Summer Reading programming

\$350 for teen volunteer party

**\$6732 total for new requests**

**\$10,160 total for new and pending requests**

**The group voted on the funding requests and unanimously approved them.**

**The group ended the meeting at 12:30. Also thanked Karen Marie Schroeder for providing scones as a snack.**

**Next meeting date: Saturday, April 23 from 11 am-1 pm**