**Friends of the Sonoma Valley Library Board Meeting – Minutes January 14, 2021**

Present: Madolyn Agrimonti, Ken Brown, Mario Castillo, Janet Constantino, Kathleen Gray, Tom Haeuser, Robin Kunde, Karen Sanders, Beverly Seyfert, Susan Shinomoto, Diana Spaulding, Sirie Thongchua, Marge Thomas. Janette Tschann

*Note: Meeting was in the form of a Zoom conference.*

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes of the December, 2020 meeting approved

New Business: New initiative to provide computer tablets to people who are in cognitive decline: Whitney Evans, former director of the Sonoma Valley Fund, has a new group which is developing this program. When more information is available, we will discuss the possibility of a Friends’ role in the project.

Unfinished Business:

Need to promote the availability of donated books and give more publicity on book donations to schools, previously tabled:

Tony has reported that Sunday donations of books is going well, but he is frustrated by lack of communication and publicity to schools and schools’ lack of response to requests for information regarding their teachers’/students’ needs.

Discussion of ideas including: questionnaire on our website, use of drop boxes or other easy ways for books to be transferred, questionnaire to schools and possibly other appropriate organizations regarding needs. *After discussion it was agreed that a questionnaire would go out to schools, but not until schools are fully operational again. This will be an action item on the July agenda.*

President:

Janet attended a library advocacy meeting. One question was how can FOLs be better advocates for libraries. There was a concern that advocacy outreach should be in one voice, difficult with so many entities involved. Under the current Reimagining program, all stakeholders will be involved in this discussion.

Robin received from the River Friends questions on dues. What are our dues? Have we considered raising our dues? What is our opinion of lifetime membership? Discussion including: (1) River FOL might consider raising dues, but we will not at this time (2) Lifetime memberships vs. yearly memberships: some prefer having a life membership and adding donations to it while some prefer yearly donations. Yet, there are downsides to lifetime membership; much better to collect yearly donations than one-time never-increasing donation. (3) Sirie suggested a monthly automatic contribution opportunity. (4) Kathleen pointed out that we have several hundred contacts on our mailing list who are not current in their yearly membership. *After discussion it was agreed to send a “we miss you” batch email to lapsed members and, after working out the logistics, adding to our website a monthly donation option.*

Vice- President:

The response was, “Not yet,” when Robin asked if there is now an accounting for the Jane Kunde Trust allocations. The “loss” of these funds is such that we do not know how much of the total distribution to the library has been spent and how much remains. Tom will see that this situation be put on the Commissioners’ Finance Committee agenda this month.

Robin reported that the Kunde Trust now has $743,033.91. This amount is more than the original in the trust in spite of contributions to the library.

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: December report previously distributed, a preliminary report pending receipt of Sonoma Community Foundation numbers. After the report comes, Susan will send it and an overview of the year’s finances to all.

Member-at-Large: Bookfinder contacted Karen asking if we had a February book sale schedule. She informed them that we had no book sale plans yet.

Karen will place another blurb in local papers regarding book donations.

Membership: We received 2 new memberships this month.

Branch Manager:

Outside Wi-Fi service will be installed on the 25th/26th so that Wi-Fi will be available to the outside areas 24-7, even when the library is closed. Project financed by the Kunde Fund with initial cost and a year’s data at $7,900. After the first year, the library will assume the data cost.

Website events calendar offers One-on One 30-minute tech help appointments and Community Coffee zoom with Clare O’Brien on Thurs., Jan. 28, 11 a.m. Over 450 cards were submitted when we asked for Happy New Year cards. They were distributed throughout the Valley.Patrons can now make Valentine’s cards for a Sonoma Valley elder. Drop off cards at library by Feb. 10.

Look for an up-coming date for a stakeholders’ session aimed at library support groups as a part of the Reimagining program, a short-range plan for what we do during COVID restrictions and when coming out of them.

One branch aide is transferring to Cloverdale with a promotion to Specialist. We have 3 open positions.

*Funding request for the 3rd and 4th quarters of the fiscal year:* $7,350 to augment branch materials, including $3,00 for adult materials, $3,000 for children’s’ materials, $750 for “Kids Scoop News” for 2021, and $600 for teen/young adult materials. **Motion to allocate $7,350 to the SV Library for the purposes identified by Manager seconded and approved.**

County Library:

Because of the demands of COVID restrictions, $3,000,000 is being transferred from physical materials to digital. Magazines are now available for check-out.

The Winter Reading Challenge is on for a million-minute reading goal.

The Roseville Branch will open late spring and positive talks with the City Council regarding a permanent site continue.

Sirie will send to Janet a message from Ann Hammond regarding the Reimagining program for distribution as appropriate.

There is no set date for re-opening, but staff is working hard on the plan to welcome back patrons. Plexiglass is still being installed in all branches.

Commission:

Tom announced that Diana is no longer “interim” but is now officially the Branch Manager for Sonoma Valley.

A part of the Reimagining program discussions is what will be the legacy of the pandemic closures and changes in the ways things are done. For instance, will we go back to the pre-COVID budgeting of physical vs. digital materials.?

City Council:

Madolyn reported that Dave Kiff, formerly Manager in Healdsburg, is interim City Manager and brings much knowledge of the county.

The Council has 60 days to appoint a replacement for Rachel Hundley or to open an election.

Madolyn is “ambitious for the City” and expects a successful recovery.

Janet expressed appreciation to Madolyn for her involvement with and support for the SV Library and its volunteers.

Other business: Janette, new manager of book sales operations, asks what she should be doing in the interim before book sales resume? *A “pandemic closure” job description will be on the agenda for the February meeting.*

The meeting was adjourned at somewhere around 4:00.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 11, 3 p.m.

Marge Thomas, Secretary