**Friends of the Sonoma Valley Library Board Meeting – Minutes April 8, 2021**

Present: Madolyn Agrimonte, Mario Castillo, Janet Constantino, Kathleen Gray, Tom Haeuser, Robin Kunde, Celma Luster, Tony Pisacane, Beverly Seyfert, Susan Shinomoto, Diana Spaulding, Sirie Thongchua, Marge Thomas, Janette Tschann, Sarah Vantrease

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

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes of the March 2021 meeting approved

*New Business*: None

*Unfinished Business*:

**Book sale**: Janette and Tony called for a formalized search for a book sale coordinator. The job is very big and Janette, while willing to continue as a volunteer, cannot take on the entire operation. Tom suggested we ask Dave to write a job description and the Board can develop a recruiting process.

Tony pointed out that our sheds have been vandalized and the grounds around the area are in disrepair. Diana will put in a work order for landscaping area.

The planned April 11 sale has been cancelled. Table availability an issue; Square wasn’t working, and myriad elements didn’t come together. Janette will go ahead with a May sale, though a person who can oversee sales in the future is needed. Janette will send her concerns to Janet who will see that they get to the right person. Tony states that there is no book sale committee, that the Board does not adequately support the sale, that there is a need for advocacy. It was pointed out that the Board approved rental of tables, that Sirie and others are advocates, and that the restrictions imposed by the pandemic have severely limited many activities. The safety of staff, the need for agreements between administration and Union, the mechanisms for re-opening are all factors that impact library services.

**Website addition for direct membership or donation availability:** Kathleen has established a business account with PayPal which will allow us to place the appropriate form and “button” on the site. A meeting with Laurie, our web manager, Susan, Membership Chair Kathleen, and Marge will take place April 9. The Board has already approved paying North Bay Web to build the appropriate page.

*President*: Deferred to Robin for report on Friends and Foundation meeting.

*Vice- President*: The representatives of FOLs discussed insurance (we have sufficient), membership dues (some are increasing their dues), and book sales (selling books through farmers’ markets and bundles have been successful).

The Kunde Fund is now at $789,211.90.

*Secretary*: No report

*Treasurer*: The report was previously distributed. Income of $35 from the coffee cart was the result of finding some cash left in the coffee cash box a year ago! The March report is “preliminary” because reports from Vanguard and the Community Foundation have not yet been received.

*Member-at-Large*: No report

*Membership*: No report

*Book Sales:* See above.

*Book Clubs:* No report

*Newsletter:* No report

*Publicity*: No report

*Discussion regarding book sales and library services continued* *before meeting adjourned*: Sirie thanked Friends for their patience; the library is working on a plan to allow Friends volunteers into the buildings again. Diana pointed out that the effort includes allowing Friends to use library tables. Janet mentioned that the FOL had actually purchased most of the library tables which we are now not able to borrow. She said we are all eager to see the library open again. Madolyn said that our sales program is amazing, that in Daly City, with more than 100,000 residents, library sales made no where near what the SVFOL makes. Janet pointed out that we make an average of $40,000 each year.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Next FOL meeting: May 13, 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Thomas

The LAB meeting immediately followed the FOL meeting and the following reports were given then:

*Commission:*

Tom reported that it is budget time again and commissioners have been asked to list three items important to next year’s budget. Please give Tom input. While more service hours was a major item last year, at this point the issue is merely getting our libraries open.

One item of interest is outreach to the Spanish-speaking communities. Among options are book mobiles. Another item is the completed development of the Roseland Branch with a permanent building. City of Santa Rosa has committed $10M to that and we will be fund-raising. The current branch building is now being used as a Covid vaccination center.

*Library Administration:*

Sarah reported that the biggest issue is the re-opening of the libraries. It is a state-wide issue. Libraries have been lumped in with retail and libraries are not like stores. We expect to open soon at 25% capacity with limited hours. It may be in April. Negotiations with the union are on-going. Though services have been limited, many resources have been expanded and community involvement and input enhanced. Diana pointed out that staff were not eligible for vaccines until March, when they were acknowledged as “educators” and received that priority. Many are just now getting the second shot.

*Branch Manager:*

Diana has been working in Petaluma and Celma Luster has been managing Sonoma. Though the library is closed there is much activity going on inside. Celma reported that when the library does open it will be done quickly so all preparations are being made now: fewer computers to accomplish social distancing, a safe place for all, plexiglass installed, basic sanitizing materials available….De-escalation training is also a part of preparation, how to deal positively with requirement of masks and the proper use of them.

Discussion included questions about the 25% capacity limit, a figure from the purple tier, the library’s conservative response to opening possibilities and the fact that funding has continued but traditional services have not.

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