**Friends of the Sonoma Valley Library Board Meeting – Minutes May 14, 2020**

Present: Madolyn Agrimonti, Dave Dobbins, Janet Constantino, Kathleen Gray, Tom Haeuser, Robin Kunde, JoAnne Sanders, Karen Sanders, Beverly Seyfert, Susan Shinomoto, Diana Spaulding, Marge Thomas, Sirie Thongchua, Tina Wolter

*Note: Meeting was in the form of a Zoom conference due to restrictions related to control of the coronavirus pandemic.*

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

Minutes of the March 12, 2020, meeting were approved.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Officer Reports

*Presiden*t: We received a thank-you letter from Director Ann Hammond for our donation to our branch’s children and youth programs. Donations in February totaled $4,722.

*Vice President:* Though we had agreed to postpone the volunteer appreciation lunch until May 28, present circumstances made it seem more appropriate to cancel the event and the caterers until such a time when we know we can be together again.

*Secretary:* The Board did not have a meeting in April, but members of the Board had an ad hoc discussion and decided it would be good to communicate with those on our mailing list and the public regarding the plans for the library, It was also agreed that it would be appropriate for us to provide information to our mailing list recipients regarding opportunities to donate or to volunteer time to organizations in our Valley who are supporting current needs for food and economic assistance during the crisis. Organizations to be listed will be researched by Marge and we will ask that our Membership Chair, Kathleen, send an email with that information and any plans for the library’s return to services.

Barbara Wells of the Sonoma Community Fund has provided a list of those organizations acknowledged by the Fund and will help with the final selections.

Marge suggested that the information include web sites, sonomacity.org/food-security and sonomavalleyvolunteers.org and, pending discussion with Barbara, organizations mentioned should be FISH, La Luz, Vintage House, SOS, Sonoma Family Meal, and the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Although the REFB is not a Valley-based entity, it provides food for distribution in at least six Valley locations and to individual senior residential sites.

This plan was approved by consensus.

*Treasurer:*

The March and April Financial Report was distributed. It is tentative because the Treasurer, Susan, has not had access to communications sent to the library. Sirie offered to see that all such communications did get to Susan.

In March, we provided $1,063 to purchase a computer for book sales management for Dave.

There was almost no activity in April. However, because of Tony’s efforts---in addition to distributing books to school children---we received an income of $1,081 in off-site sales.

There were no charges for the coffee cart in April. The company is not charging us for two months.

By email, Board members have approved payment of the annual web site fee of $588.

*Member-at-Large and Publicity Chair*: No activities means no publicity, but as soon as she does received information from the May 4 Commissions’ Meeting and Central’s plans she will provide information to the public through her news contacts. She did contact Book Sale Finders to inform them that we have suspended sales indefinitely.

Committees:

*Book Sales*: Dave is using the new computer to organize all documents and information related to the book sales and book donations. The success of our program, Dave said, is due to the excellent Book Sale Committee.

*Membership*: Under the current circumstances, there has been no activity and no information to or from members. Kathleen was welcomed to her first Board meeting.

*Branch Manager*: Managers are working 10 hours a week remotely. IT is installing technology to improve security and access. Deep cleaning and sanitizing by Facilities staff will be completed before library service staff can return to branches. They will have a great deal of work to do. It is not until Phase 3 of the plan to move toward re-opening that Friends and other volunteers will return to their libraries. There is no specific time frame*. [Note: Director Ann Hammond later informed the press that, due to changes in state and county guidelines, the libraries may be able to institute curbside lending of materials by late May or June.]*

*Central:* Sirie sent an email to the Board and others which outlines the phases of progress determined for libraries. The information on this plan is available to the public on the library’s web site. [Attached is that information.]

*Commissioner*: Don’t expect anything soon and don’t expect it to look like what you expect. Much depends on the State and the County.

The Commission is wrestling with budget. There has been no transfer of sales tax money since January or February and there is an un-known loss in sales tax and probably in property tax income. Based on past experiences with recession/depression cycles, this will not be a one-year phenomenon. Recovery may take from 5 to 8 years.

*Council*: The City is facing a serious reduction in income. Our economy is based primarily on tourism. Our hotels and other tourism-based entities cannot pay their usual TOTs (Transient Occupancy Tax) and sales taxes are down. There is an expected $2.7 million shortfall for 2019-20. When recovery will happen is uncertain, but not in the immediate months ahead. Restaurants will re-open, but how many customers will come to them is unknown. The economy is bleak, but there is a lot of good news with so much happening in food donations and other support for people and businesses.

*LAB*: JoAnne reported that the LAB has not been meeting and there is no continuity at this point. Everything will be on the table. We will need to face long-term changes in how the Friends and the library can serve. The on-going camaraderie and determination of the FOL is heartening.

*Other*: Robin reported on the status of the Jane Kunde Trust. Though the funds, like all such, have taken a hit, there is still $655,989 in the trust. “There is still money there with which we can do things.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55. Next meeting: June 11. 3:00 p.m. Place and format to be determined.