**Friends of the Sonoma Valley Library Board Meeting – Minutes July 9, 2020**

Present: Madolyn Agrimonti, Janet Constantino, Dave Dobbins, 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 3:00 p.m.

Minutes of the June 11, 2020, meeting were approved as corrected: the newsletter “snail mail” distribution is approximately 250, not 25.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business: Continuing the discussion regarding receiving book donations and future sales [see minutes of 6/11/20], two differing opinions were considered:

1. We should be open to donations quickly. Four volunteers are ready to sort with Tony. Branch will begin to receive returns on July 10. Receiving donations facilitates Tony’s children’s book distribution and sales of books off site. There is a concern that suspending donation program over several months will adversely affect the strong community participation in this donation program. Tony believes the City should be asked for more storage space to hold books until book sales resume.
2. We should not resume donations and sorting until 10 weeks before we plan to resume book sales. We should not ask volunteers to resume sorting until it is safe and we will not have traditional book sales until such activities are safe, in actuality only when a vaccine has been developed and is available. It may be not until 2021, even until February or even May. We do not yet have a volunteer willing to be in charge of donation sorting. We have sufficient storage and it is not necessary to ask the City for more. Any donation not used by Tony will go to DR3 for St. Vincent de Paul.

*[Note: After the meeting, the County administration decided that, considering the on-going coronavirus situation, no donations would be accepted in any branch within the system at this time.]*

Diana reported that county administration has been asked if the Valley FOL can jump ahead of other FOLs in receiving donations. Other FOLs work inside the branches and volunteers are not yet allowed to be inside the buildings. Our group works in the back, outside. FOL would need a plan for receiving books which was safe, perhaps a 72-hour delay in handling materials.

We do have a volunteer to manage book sales when they resume. Long-time book sale patron, Janette Tschann was introduced and welcomed.

*After discussion, it was the consensus that we will not ask the City for additional storage at this time and that a subcommittee will work with Tony to develop a specific plan to accept donations and manage the materials. The subcommittee is Janet Constantino, Robin Kunde, Dave Dobbins, Janette Tschann, Diana Spaulding, and Tony Pisacane.*

Officer Reports

*President:* No report

*Vice President:* No report

*Secretary:* No report

*Treasurer:* June report previously distributed. We do not yet have current figures from our investment funds.

*Member-at-Large and Publicity Chair*: No report

*Branch Manager’s Report*:

Curb-side service continues with 186 patrons, picking up between 1 and 6 books July 6-8. Prior to that, beginning June 8, more than 540 pickups. Important that no books are left if the bin is full and that no donations are left. Tomorrow, July 10, we will begin receiving returns Fridays and Saturdays 10-5 or until the book drop is full. Materials will be quarantined for 3-7 days. Virtual programs continue on-line, including children’s story time, crafts, guitar and ukulele lessons and more. Diana will co-lead with Guerneville cohort the first on-line book club July 15 and 16. The book is *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad.

Request for funds for first and second funding period to carry the branch over for six months: Amount requested, $5,160, taking into account a $1,440 carry-over from previous fiscal year. This funding will provide for discretionary funds for materials for adult, children’s and teen/young adult readers, both Spanish and English resources. It will allow the purchase of additional copies of high demand/best seller books, as well as replacements and local curriculum support. The County Library has eliminated discretionary funding due to anticipated budget short-falls.

*Motion to allocate $5,160 for the purposes described. Seconded and approved.*

Committees:

*Book Sales*: See above

*Membership*: Kathleen reports one new member since March. Assumption is that all Board and Committee members are currently active members.

*Book Clubs*: No report

*Newsletter*: No report

*Commissioner:* We are looking at budget cuts but good news is that we are opening up gradually and now books can be ordered intra-library. With the decrease in Measure Y income, the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation will reposition as a capital campaign organization, with attention to the Roseland branch, an underfunded area. The need is significant for purchase of land for a building. Other branches need improvements and expansions. Right now we are not spending for major expansion needs, such as an elevator for Santa Rosa, but only aesthetic needs. This is a long-term activity. July 13 is next Commission meeting and discussion of a $7 million decline in income.

*County System*: Sirie, Fund Development Manager reported: In June she submitted a $500K grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for more hotspots, chrome books and a program to address digital inequity in Sonoma County. Grants will be awarded in August. Under the grant, Chrome books will be distributed to residents of Los Guilicos to help with job and other searches; later these books will go to farm workers, seniors, and the disabled. Sirie is happy to assist with any local grant applications, sponsorship solicitations or special events planning (live or virtual).

Library rolled out personalized reading recommendations with an online form that is quite popular. Go to https://www.sonomalibrary.org/read-next for details. A librarian will send you a list of recommendations personalized to response to your questionnaire.

July 16, 11 am, a free webinar on the future of Friends book sales by ALA – United for Libraries. Go to http://www.ala.org/united/webinars/booksales/registration to register. Currently, there is a robust discussion about Friends book sales across the nation and Canada on the list serve. Sirie suggests an annual $50 membership to the United of Libraries as a good investment for Friends organizations. http://www.ala.org/united/membership/howtojoin

Sirie is working on the Support page of the library website in the next few months to promote the Friends and link to the FOL organization websites from that page.

*City Council:* Madolyn reported that Tom Haeuser has been reappointed to the Library Commission.

Funds are being raised for SOS; the need for Chrome books is an issue.

Financially, the picture is pretty bad. We have opened the city, but the future is uncertain, our COVID case numbers are growing, and closures may happen. We need to toughen our rules for and enforcement of mask usage, particularly with visitors who do not seem to think them necessary.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 Next meeting: August 15, 3:00, followed by the LAB meeting.*

Marge Thomas, Secretary

Attached: Branch Manager’s Report and Funding Request