

FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THE ANNEX

NOVEMBER 18, 2015

President Peter Dehlinger called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

1. Roll Call

Present: Nancy Cohen, Peter Dehlinger, Charlotte Epstein, Nigel Jones, Tina Kass, Suzanne Brown Little, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, Martha Schmidt

Absent: Tom Clark, Ann Justice, Karen Neier, Steven Staiger

Guests: Bob Moss

2. Agenda Approval

The agenda has been kept to a minimum so we can proceed to the annual meeting.

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Minutes of October meeting

The meetings were approved as presented.

4. Library Report

Monique was not available.

There was a comment from Bob Moss that while library usage numbers for California and the US are in decline, the Palo Alto numbers are holding steady. Also the PA libraries are providing some community services that other libraries don't so usage figures are not totally comparable.

5. Reports of officers/committees

5a. Treasurer- monthly report - Karen Neier

Suzanne is reporting for Karen who is absent.

The FOPAL November sale competed with sales at Los Altos and Mountain View. There was a comment that donations are up but quality is declining. There was a comment that individual sales are for smaller amounts than in past years.

There was a brief discussion of whether we are declining or mostly holding steady. Amazon sales are about \$6-12,000 per month. A graph of Amazon listings and Amazon sales don't necessarily move in tandem so an increase in listings won't necessarily bring increased revenue in the next month.

There was a suggestion that we get more listers which is one factor that we can control. There are only 8 people handling the HV section.

Total book sales income for October was \$25,912.30 and other income was \$3,393.39 for a total gross income for October of \$29,305.69. Total book sale expenses were \$19,387.85 leaving a net book sale income of \$6,524.45.

#### 5b. Book Sale - monthly report - Suzanne Little

Janette was absent.

Suzanne reported that the book sale was very quiet on Sunday however, Free Night was very successful. One man took 1000 LPs. One couple came with a trailer which they filled up. They plan to return next month with a larger trailer. If enough books are taken at Free Night then DR3 would only need to come once and we could start on restocking the BR sooner.

Janette wanted the board to know that the Library Appreciation party was budgeted for \$2500 but that the cost was only \$2200.

The Member sale will be in December. At 9AM Life Members will be issued a numbered ticket per membership which will need to be presented at purchase and will allow the purchase of 50 books. Two adults will be admitted per membership. By 10AM Life Members will need to have purchased their books before the regular members enter.

Nancy will email Martha a draft of the notice outlining life member policy which will be available to members and cashiers.

There was a question about the 50 books limit. The reply was that the number could be reconsidered but not this close to the December sale. The number could be adjusted for the next sale in June.

There was a question regarding the number of Life Members that come to the sale. The number is probably between 9-15.

There was a question regarding the category of individual Sponsor. We don't have any so the board voted to delete this category.

The board passed a motion to delete the Sponsor category.

It was suggested that we have a signup table for membership at the sale. Janette will find a volunteer to staff the table.

Peter raised the question of how concerned we need to be if Frank McConnell moves out of the area. Martha replied that the membership files are now on Dropbox which allows files to be managed at a distance and this is working successfully. Frank will update the letterhead on December 31 on Dropbox.

#### 6. Staying current with PAUSD plans for Cubberley, Jim, Nigel

The report on PAUSD plans for Cubberley will be placed on the December agenda.

Jim presented a quick overview of the situation. The amount of money that the city has been paying the school district is being set aside for a planning process which might produce some reliable numbers on what it would cost to fix Cubberley. An infrastructure task force estimated that it could be 18 million dollars to bring Cubberley to current code.

There was a question regarding the smaller spaces that are used for FOPAL, dance studios and art studios. The city owns 8.1 acres out of the 35 on the Cubberley site. The Main Book room is on a piece owned by the city, the Annex on School District property and the BR on city property. Most of the small spaces are on city property.

#### 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.

Annual Appeal Mailing

Eight board members worked for an hour and a half to stuff, label, and stamp around 850 envelopes for the annual appeal. Jim noted that last year it took only an hour to do this project because there were 10 board members then.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Epstein  
Secretary