

Mount Vernon Library Foundation Minutes
Monday, July 9, 2012
P.O. Box 202 Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Skagit Community Foundation Offices

Attended by Marija Anderson, Bill Craig, Peter Goldfarb, Sara Holahan, Harold Page, Sara Patton, Chuck Smith, and Brian Soneda. Guest: Kristen Keltz, Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Harold Page called the meeting to order at 5:35.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT: No Treasurer's Report was given since Pam McNaughton was unable to attend. It was suggested that Pam e-mail her report if she was unable to attend.

III. MINUTES: Bill Craig made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Peter Goldfarb. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Committee Reports

1. Board Building Committee: Sara Holahan reported that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Library Foundation and the City of Mount Vernon had been approved by the City Council and was being distributed for signatures. Sara Holahan was concerned about who and where official documents relating to the Foundation would be kept. Sara Patton noted that as secretary, she is keeping a file of all the minutes, agenda, by-laws, etc. Sara Holahan agreed to keep a back-up file at the library. A list of items included in the file should be kept with each file.

Sara Holahan also reported that the Recruitment Committee had been calling people in the community to develop a list of contacts and potential board members from various civic and community groups. There was some confusion over who was contacting whom since there was some overlap with members of the Communications Committee, Peter and Kelly, were also contacting people.

Peter Goldfarb introduced Kristen Keltz of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and explained that he and Kelly Reep had met with Kristen earlier to ask about various community resources. Kristen noted there was some confusion between the Friends of the Library, the Library Board of Directors, and the Library Foundation, two of which are 501(c) 3 organizations. It was explained the Friends raise direct support for operating funds, while the Foundation is more concerned with the capital project of building a new facility. Peter suggested the Library Newsletter be used to explain the differences and that we start to put out more information on what we are trying to do and get more input back from the community. Kristen noted that there are competing capital projects –like a new jail—and that we need to present our case with a wish list for a new library.

Harold asked Kristen to identify business leaders who might be interested in working on the Library Foundation. Kristen agreed to make an announcement to members at the next Chamber Meeting and that a 50 word write up could be put into the Chamber's E Newsletter. Chuck Smith also agreed to update the list of presidents of the various service clubs for potential membership and future presentations. Harold agreed to write a piece for the Chamber Newsletter. Brian noted that the Library was a member of the Chamber and that Foundation members were encouraged to attend Chamber lunches at the Cottontree Inn. The next lunch will be July 25th, 11:30-1, at a cost of \$15.

Sara Holahan talked with Terry Belco of North Coast Credit and Brian contacted Mindy Coslor of the Skagit Valley Community College who was very supportive of a new library.

Sara Holahan also suggested that a letter be sent to estate lawyers, CPAs, and financial advisors asking that they mention to their clients the possibility of gifting or leaving endowments for a new Library in wills or other documents.

Brian was somewhat concerned about the Foundation beginning its appeal to the public before the Mayor has had a chance to take the lead.

2. Communication Committee: Dan Parkin sent a copy of the stationery with the logo. Harold suggested that the logo be pulled down and displayed only at the top and the wording at the bottom be centered. Kristen suggested that the website be added as well.

3. Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study: Funding for a feasibility study is still a concern. Harold reported that John White of the Skagit Community Foundation (which holds the Sonja Beard gift) confirmed that 10% of the Beard funds could be used for a feasibility study. Brian is hesitant to endorse the expenditure without talking to Sonja Beard's executor.

Harold would like to invite Kris Lund to attend a meeting and have her submit a more specific proposal.

Sara Patton reported that the possibility of getting funding for a feasibility study from the Paul Allen Foundation seemed to fit their previous grant history but that proposals were closed for 2012. At this point we can only write a letter of inquiry to see if we fit their criteria and apply for next year's cycle. She reiterated that the criteria for such a study needs to be spelled out in specific terms though all agree that it should include comparison studies around the country, the amount of usage, survey techniques such as telephone, focus groups, etc. All agreed that having a consultant do the study would lend more validity to the results than if we just sent out questionnaires ourselves.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Library Director's Report: Brian reported that the Farmer's Market would be held July 14th and that it was an opportunity to hand out bookmarks. Chuck Smith, Sharon Sackett, Steve Jordan and Brian would be attending. Chuck agreed to do a mini survey but thought we could do a longer survey on the web site.

B. Sara Holahan reported that it would cost from \$30-75 to register a domain name for a web page. Marija made a motion to allow Sara to spend up to that amount to register a domain name. The motion was seconded by Chuck and carried unanimously. Sara Holahan also reported that website would include a quarterly newsletter article by the Foundation and Friends of the Library.

The next Library Foundation meeting will be held on Monday, August 6th at 5:30 p.m. at the **Skagit Community Foundation offices.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Patton, Secretary