

Mount Vernon Library Foundation Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2014 5:30 p.m.
Skagit Community Foundation Offices
1003 Cleveland Ave, Mt Vernon, Mt Vernon, WA

Board Members Present: Marija Anderson, Carmen Bruner, Peter Goldfarb, Angelica Guillen, Sara Patton, Chuck Smith, and Staff Liaison Brian Soneda

Board Members Absent: Kathy Combs, Scott Correa, Troy Kunz, Harold Page, Roger Ragusa, Kelly Reep

Guests: Phil Marshall, Bob Hageman

I. Call to Order: Vice-president Marija Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:42. Guests, Phil Marshall and Bob Hageman, who recently retired from the Seattle Public Library, were welcomed and introductions were made.

II. MINUTES: Chuck pointed out that the date was incorrect on the January minutes. Peter moved to approve the minutes as corrected, and Chuck seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT and 2014 BUDGET: Treasurer Chuck Smith reported that \$595 in membership fees, \$1,155 in donations, and 53 cents in interest were added to our account in January. The only expense we had was \$22 for the Craig Romano books given away in the drawing at the last meeting. This left a balance of \$7,282.91 in the Foundation's account as of January 31, 2014. Brian also noted the Sonya Beard bequest for a new library had an excess of \$600,000, being held by the Skagit Community Foundation. Chuck reported that only half of the Board members have paid their membership fees to date.

IV. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: To clarify the various Library support groups for our guests, Brian explained that the Friends of the Library were primarily interested in assisting with funds for new books, furniture or equipment. In addition to membership fees, they raise funds through book sales. The Library Foundation is primarily involved in supporting efforts and raising money to build a new library for Mount Vernon. He also informed them that the City has chosen a Seattle architectural firm, SHKS, to do an eight month study for a new Mount Vernon Library. The consultant has been tasked to gauge community support for a new library, and gather suggestions for location and what should go into a new facility. Jana Hansen and Brian will be meeting with the principals to get specifics on when the public meetings will be held. The final report should be completed sometime next fall.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Harold Page's Resignation as President: Marija asked if all Board members had received copies of Harold's email, announcing his resignation as president due to family health concerns. In view of the light attendance of Board members at the February meeting, she suggested that we discuss new elections for the presidency at the next meeting. She also recommended that the president be someone who is familiar with our past activities and efforts and who has been on the Board for awhile.

B. Report on the Nonprofit Workshop for Board Members: Sara reported that Carmen, Angelica and she all attended a very productive educational workshop for current and prospective Nonprofit Board members, sponsored by the Washington Division of Corporations and Charities. She highlighted a few of the main responsibilities of Non-profit boards and suggested that we discuss them separately and in more detail at subsequent meetings. Angelica offered to see if we could get copies of the handbook to distribute to our Board members.

C. Strategic Plan Review and Revision: Sara reported that she had sent attached copies of the Library Foundation ByLaws and Strategic Plan to all members of the Board so that new (and old!) members could become familiar with the our institutional mission and guidelines. She also proposed that we begin to review the Strategic Plan's Goals and Strategies to see where we stand and what we need to do going forward in the process. A review of the steps A-"Determine Community support for a new library with a Needs assessment or Project Scope" and B-"Obtain City Council approval and support" have been or are in the process of being completed with the hiring of a consultant to do a needs assessment. Brian

emphasized that the consultant study should help build community awareness as well.

D. Membership Report: In the absence of Kathy Combs, Sara reported that she and Harold sent out thank you letters to those who made donations and sent in membership fees in December and January. Brian noted that he and Kathy were scheduled to give a presentation to the Mt. Vernon Rotary in February.

E. Other Business: Peter asked Bob Hageman about his experience with architects and other planners when designing the new Seattle City Library built in 2004. Bob noted that it was important for the staff to have input into the design so that actual library functions are taken into account and that the facility be patron-centered. Concerns such as customer and staff usage, storage requirements, and maintenance need to be considered in the planning process. He noted, for instance, the need for more electrical outlets for the number of electronic devices being used by today's library customers. Overall, however, they were happy with the library.

VI. **Adjourn:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 10 at 5:30 at the Skagit Community Foundation offices at 711 S 1st Street, Mount Vernon.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Patton, Secretary