

Mount Vernon Library Foundation Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2014 5:30 p.m.

Himalaya Property Management Offices
1003 Cleveland Avenue, Mt Vernon, WA

Board Members Present: Marija Anderson, Carmen Bruner, Nancy Doty, Peter Goldfarb, Troy Kunz, Sara Patton, Roger Ragusa, Kelly Reep, Chuck Smith, and Staff Liaison Brian Soneda

Board Members Absent: Kathy Combs, Scott Correa, Harold Page

I. CALL TO ORDER: President Marija Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:34.

II. MINUTES: The minutes were approved as corrected. And thanks go to Troy Kunz for writing them up!

III. TREASURER'S REPORT: Chuck reported a balance of \$7,212.06 at the end of May. Dues and interest brought the income to \$35.59 and expenses for name badges and post office box rental totaled \$105.40. Brian explained that the funds in the Foundation Budget are from membership dues and small donations and are currently used for operating expenses.

IV. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Brian reported that he would be updating the City Council on June 11 and July 9 as to the progress of the consulting study and the survey for a new library. He will also update the Foundation from the weekly reports he gets from the consultants. He announced that the Needs Assessment consultants will again be holding public meetings at the Library on July 9th. He will be sending out invitations to the core stakeholders, which include Foundation members and directors. They will be invited to attend the afternoon meeting from 3-4:30. This will give us an opportunity to hear feedback on the survey.

The primary effort of all of us should be to get the word out about the survey, to get input and ideas for a new library from all the segments of the community, and to build public support to fund the costs of building a new facility. To that end, Brian noted that he has been meeting with the Latino Advisory Committee to get input on ideas for a new library. In addition, a Spanish language draft of the survey and appearances on the radio in Spanish will encourage the Hispanic community to participate. He also hopes for more support among teachers and the school system. A School Board meeting is scheduled for June 18th and, hopefully, they will discuss ways to support a new public library.

At this point over 200 surveys have been submitted and they are hoping for another 100 by the end of June when the survey will close. The update to the City Council in July will include a short presentation by the consultants. Brian encouraged Foundation members to attend. A final report will be given to the City Council in September.

Brian again put out a call for volunteers to host the Library Booth every other Saturday at the Mount Vernon Farmer's market. He reiterated that it was a good platform to discuss the new library and to encourage people to take the survey. He thanked Carmen Bruner and Peter Goldfarb for their recent participation. Kelly Reep suggested taking a photo of the Library Booth to post on the Library webpage. Brian announced that the Mayor will be at the Library on Saturday, July 12th to meet with the public. This will be a good opportunity to show support for a new library.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Roger reported that he has been in touch with Roger Gietzen, the Executive Director of the Lincoln Theater as to how the Library Foundation and the Lincoln can work together in mutual support. They have not worked out specific details at this point but hopefully that will happen in the near future. Brian added that we have had great support from the Chamber of Commerce.

B. Chuck reported that he wrote a letter to the editor of the Skagit Valley Herald asking for community support for a new Library but because it didn't fit the paper's criteria of "opinion", it wasn't published. Sara offered to call the paper and get the guidelines or format for including letters in the

"Letter to the Editor" column.

C. Roger reported that Brian and Kathy recently presented information about the survey to the Rotary Club. In response to one member who described the survey as more of a wish list than a realistic evaluation, Brian noted that we were indeed looking for the ideal and for exciting new ideas as a way to determine what the public values in a library. From there, we scale back to reality and what we can afford to do.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Membership Chair Replacement: With the resignation of Kathy Combs as Membership Chair due to health issues, Marija nominated Carmen Bruner to fill that post. The primary duty of that position is to mail out the annual membership letters in the fall and invite people to the January annual membership meeting. There is a written job description available. Chuck pointed out that he would work with her to maintain records on membership dues. Carmen bowed to the pressure of the group and agreed to serve in the position.

At the same time, we all want to express our gratitude to Kathy for her service as the first membership chair. Her work at writing a job description, setting up a spread sheet of members' names, addresses and emails, and getting the word out to the service clubs and other community members has enabled us to move forward with our mission to inform the public and build support for a new library.

B. Board Building: With the resignation of Angelica Guillen as a Foundation Director, Nancy Doty has agreed to serve as a new director. Building a solid board of community leaders and activists is an on-going task of the Foundation and will be critically important in the effort to raise funds for the new facility.

C. Summer Meetings: Due to the on-going needs assessment, the importance of getting the word out about the survey, and showing support for a new library, the consensus on summer meetings was to continue with them even if there was not enough attendance for a quorum. Brian will make every effort to keep us updated on the progress of the needs assessment.

D. Active Advocacy: Brian encouraged all Foundation members to attend both the afternoon public meeting of core stakeholders at the Library and the City Council Meeting on July 9th. Our presence will show our support for the new library. Sara will send out reminders prior to meeting.

VIII. Adjourn: There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held July 14th at 5:30 at the Himalaya Property Management, 1003 Cleveland Avenue, Mt. Vernon, WA.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Patton
Secretary