

## Mount Vernon Library Foundation Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2014 5:30 p.m.

Himalaya Property Management Offices

**Board Members Present:** Scott Correa, Nancy Talbot Doty, Peter Goldfarb, Troy Kunz, Kelly Reep, Roger Ragusa, Sara Patton, Chuck Smith, and Staff Liaison Brian Soneda

**Board Members Absent:** Marija Anderson, Carmen Bruner, Kathy Combs, Harold Page

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Peter Goldfarb called the meeting to order at 5:32.

**II. MINUTES:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chuck reported a balance of \$7187.57 as of August 29, 2014 with \$1.18 in interest. Expenditures came to \$26.28 which included new Board Member badges and the filing fee to renew our Non-Profit 501 (c) 3 status.

**IV. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Brian reported that, thanks to the hard work of Scott Correa and the support of former Library Board member Paul Jurenka and others, Mount Vernon City Library received a STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) grant from SPEEA (The Seattle Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, IFPTE Local 2001), valued at \$3700. The grant will provide a Portable Computer Classroom in the Children's area for use in STEM projects, including Khan Academy modules. Staff expects that this will be a great resource for library patrons and a great tie-in to STEM learning efforts in the Mount Vernon School District.

Brian noted that an executive summary of the Needs Assessment has been submitted but the final report is waiting for input from Brian, Jana Hansen and a representative from the Library Foundation. They suggested that Peter Goldfarb work with them on the final draft. Any others who have input may contact Brian.

Brian also thanked all of those who attended the City Council Meeting on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> to hear the presentation of the Needs Assessment. As a result, the Mayor and several Council members have agreed to go on a tour of several libraries in Seattle and Everett to better understand how space and technology are being used in libraries today, stressing the need for spatial flexibility. He encouraged Foundation members who were interested to join the tours. The tours are scheduled for either Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. Contact him regarding car pools.

In discussing the Needs Assessment Report, the issues of location and square footage were again brought forward. Peter asked why more sites weren't considered. Brian pointed out that the ongoing efforts for downtown renovation argued for a more centralized location in the downtown area, especially where the City currently owned the property and would not have to purchase property. Several Board members noted that the square footage recommended by the Report was significantly less than the libraries in either Anacortes or Burlington. And, because Mount Vernon lacks a community center, it was even more essential that the new Library have enough space for community gatherings.

Brian encouraged the Foundation to keep the message alive regarding the need and support for a new library. He suggested attending City Council meetings to talk about why we need it, writing letters to the editor expressing support, thanking the City Council for spending the money on the Needs Assessment study, etc.

He also asked whether or not the Board would agree to raise funds for any minor projects requiring outside consultants. It was pointed out that the Foundations operating budget is less than \$10,000 which comes primarily from membership money. The only other source at this point is from the Sonja Beard funds earmarked for construction. We could also apply for a grant from the Skagit Community Foundation and look for other grants. Successful fund raising from private sources always depends on the community's ability to donate as well as its interest.

Nancy Doty proposed that Stu Elway, a professional pollster (and one of the top five pollsters nationwide) be asked to do a public opinion survey in Mount Vernon to determine how much support there is for building a new library for Mount Vernon. He would charge \$1000 for a one question survey and would help develop the question to best determine whether or not there is enough support for a bond referendum. Several members of the Board agreed to donate \$100 for this study: Scott Correa, Roger Ragusa, Peter Goldfarb, Nancy Doty, Sara Patton, Chuck Smith, and Troy Kunz. The remaining amount would come from Foundation funds.

The next meeting will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Himalaya Property Management Offices. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Patton  
Secretary