

FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
APRIL 10, 2019
MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Nancy Cohen called the meeting to order at 9:30.
Present: Nancy Cohen, Charlotte Epstein, Melinda Parry, Nigel Jones, Tina Kass, Suzanne Little, Shaun Maguire, Karen Neier, Young-Jeh Oh, KC Sarr, Steve Staiger, Jim Sutherland, Nancy Tillman.
Absent: Gerry Masteller
2. Minutes of the previous meeting: **Nigel Jones moved to approve the draft minutes of March 2019. The motion was seconded by Charlotte Epstein and passed unanimously.**
3. Nancy Cohen introduced Nancy Tillman, a candidate for the Board of Directors. **Karen Neier moved approval of this nomination, which was seconded by Charlotte Epstein and passed unanimously.**
4. Library Director's Report: Gayathri Kanth reported that the Silicon Valley Reads program was successful, though with fewer participants than anticipated, and that the librarians are getting ready for the summer reading program. Diane Lai, an information technology specialist, discussed the cuts to the collections and the process the librarians use to order/replace materials. There is a tiered system for non-fiction books, although the first priority is reasonable requests from patrons. This fiscal year is the last year the libraries will receive funds from the now-dissolved Library Foundation. The librarians are awaiting decisions about city funding for their next fiscal year. Thus far, FOPAL funds are used only for physical books, not for other resources.
5. High Value (Nigel Jones):
 - Nigel told us that KC Sarr is leaving the board. She has been a tremendous help to Nigel particularly in the High Value area, and she will be greatly missed by all of us.
 - A copy of Lord of the Rings sold for \$380 at PBA. We have 15 items accepted for future sales and perhaps 15 more waiting to be taken to San Francisco.
 - Young-Jeh Oh has 492 DVDs listed on eBay; 77 were sold in March at an average of \$19/DVD. This is potentially a very good source of revenue, but we need more listers.
 - There are 1500 active items on Amazon; 143 sold in March at an average of \$48/item. We had a good month with about \$7,000 in sales before fees (\$4,462.29 net). There is a very good team in place, but we need more volunteers here. Several promising people dropped out.
 - There will be a High Value bay with 16 very diverse items in the April sale.
6. Treasurer's Report (Shaun Maguire):
 - March was another solid month with total sales income of \$29,413.04. There were two exceptional expenses last month, a \$4,000 payment to Mobile Modular for past underpayment of rent and \$2,564 for the printing and mailing of The Foreword.
 - Shaun met with Gayathri Kanth to discuss how the libraries are going to spend the \$91,860 still in their grants budget in the remaining two months of their fiscal year. Gayathri said they want to reallocate some of the planned funds and will spend most of the remaining balance on collections. The board agreed that this was fine. She also requested an additional \$10,000 for collections for this year. The board agreed in a later discussion that we would probably not give this additional grant because the library has trouble spending what they've already been promised for this year. She told Shaun in an email that the library is planning to ask us for

\$190,000 for next year. This year's grant was \$131,500 plus a carryover of \$22,000 from last year. The board was surprised to hear that the library had been receiving about \$200,000 from the Library Foundation. We agreed that we need a much more detailed report next month from Diane Lai about the library's buying program for the collections. We also need to have a better idea of what the new city budget will include for the library system.

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- 7. Book Sale Committee (Charlotte Epstein): Charlotte reported that the committee members have reassigned some of the space in various sections of the Main Room, which has gone smoothly. She and Karen del Colletto are still working on reorganizing the sorting room shelves.
- 8. President's Report (Nancy Cohen):
 - A special vinyl sale will take place in M3 during the May sale. Henry is doing a good job of coordinating this project. A box of vintage children's vinyl will be sold in the Children's Room.
 - Janette keeps trying to fill the many open volunteer positions. High Value is a top priority, but several section managers and book movers are also needed.
 - Gerry Masteller is planning to hold a High Value ephemera sale in June with Karen del Colletto's help.
 - Under old business, Steve Staiger had discussed possibly giving some FOPAL money to other organizations such as school libraries. He met with the librarian at Palo Alto High School, who told him that local elementary schools might have a bigger need. Steve will continue researching this, although with the anticipated request for a large increase in grant money to the library system we might not have any excess money.
 - Steve also pointed out that this is the 125th anniversary of the founding of Palo Alto. The group that is organizing the celebration would like all the local groups to contribute their own projects. Steve's suggestion would be to set up a fund to help digitize the huge archives of the Palo Alto Times that are currently on microfilm in the library's basement. This could be a very valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Silicon Valley, but it would be a very expensive project. FOPAL might consider setting up a fund for other donors and asking for assistance from Google. He will find out how much microfilm is in the library.
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- 9. Adjournment:
Steve Staiger moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15. It was seconded by KC Sarr and passed unanimously.