

FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING
JUNE 9, 2021
MINUTES

1. Call to Order: President Nancy Cohen called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.
Present: Nancy Cohen, Nancy Tillman, Melinda Parry, Nicole Ly, Karen Dal Colletto, Charlotte Epstein, Bill Jones, Nigel Jones, Tina Kass, Suzanne Little, Gerry Masteller, Karen Neier, Young-Jeh Oh, Steve Staiger, Jim Sutherland.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: **The minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2021 were approved by acclamation.**
3. Interim Librarian's Report (Gayathri Kanth):
 - The city' 2021/22 budget for the libraries should be finalized later this month. The new budget will allow Mitchel Park and Rinconada Libraries to be open six days a week and Children's, College Terrace, and Downtown Libraries to be open three days a week. The CT and DT Libraries will not reopen for a while because new staff must be hired for them. Of the 1,200 responses that the City Council received about the upcoming budget cuts, the number one concern was about the libraries.
 - The library received some COVID-19 grant money.
 - Gayathri said the public will be shocked when they return in person to see the large number of cuts made to the collections. The library used to order one copy for every four requests; now it orders one copy for every ten requests. She will get back to us with the amount of money that is spent on very popular new books.
 - The summer reading program has started. FOPAL donated a large number of books to be given as prizes to those completing the program.
4. Treasurer's Report (Nicole Ly)::
 - We had lower sales revenue and higher expenses in May. Total sales income was \$18,213.94 and total expenses were \$18,274.43. \$3,775.61 in memberships and Stanford Credit Union income prevented the month from being a loss.
 - With only one month left in the fiscal year, the library still has about \$21,000 in our 2020/21 grant to be spent or carried over to next year's grant.
 - Nicole will roll over one CD at TIAA because we have a lot of cash in the bank.
 - At the May board meeting, we budgeted \$120,000 for Cubberley sales in FY 2021/22. Nancy Cohen would like to see that conservative estimate increased, but the board preferred to keep it at that level and revisit it later in the year.
5. High Value (Nigel Jones):

- Two items will go to auction at PBA this week, and Nigel delivered 12-15 books for upcoming auctions.
 - We had an excellent month at Amazon: \$12,387 before fees. There were 4,355 active items and 260 items sold.
 - eBay had revenue of \$1,562 before fees, with 38 DVDs, books, and games sold.
 - It is not yet clear what Amazon is doing about our storage capacity. We are about 3,200 books over its new limits, so we will need to sell a large number of books or have them removed from the Amazon warehouse before we can resume listing items. Of the 260 books sold last month, 50% were from older (2017/18) listings. Nigel is reducing the prices on some of the current listings.
 - Amazon told Nigel last Friday that it would increase our storage capacity but may not increase our utilization rate from 1,200 items.
 - Nigel and Nancy are sending an email to everyone asking for ideas. We could increase our use of eBay and begin to use a platform like AbeBooks, both of which will require the listers to do their own shipping. Some Friends groups are using a third-party lister (ForestBooks.com) who travels as far south as San Carlos to pick up books.
6. Book Sale Committee (Nancy Tillman):
- Friends and Family sales are going well and will continue through mid-July.
 - Donations will go to the MR 3-5 without appointment starting June 15th.
 - A regular monthly sale is planned for August. The website will be updated.
 - Janette will be working onsite in mid-June.
7. Nominating Committee (Steve Staiger): The committee is looking for recommendation for next year's officers.
8. President's Report (Nancy Cohen):
- The Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a particular issue.
 - We will continue to require face masks for anyone working all three rooms. Social distancing and quarantine will no longer be required.
 - We will resume in-person board meetings in the fall. Nicole will provide written reports, and Nancy is researching a way to allow Nicole's electronic participation..
9. Adjournment: **Steve Staiger moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 A.M. The motion passed by acclamation.**