

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES, KONA

F.O.L.K. BOARD MEETING MINUTES - September 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 by Vice President Shirley David. Attending were Board members Suzanne Dmytrenko, Shirley David, Bev Stehley, Mardee Richardson, Ken Guerra, and Arne Werchick. Librarians Denise Stromberg and Shelly Brown also attended. Guest Fred Hornbruch III.

The minutes of the August 15, 2017, meeting were approved. MSA

Barbara Isley gives the treasurer report. Assets at the end of February are \$58,030.08; the Ameritrade account end of August stands just \$36,924; today 37,157. \$1278 August book sales; Lobby sales were \$1054 for July; \$78 last month at Kealahou, which also was better than usual. Book sale expenses have been higher than normal, in part because we bought three more dollies. We have received \$210 in individual contributions, similar to last year, primarily because Mardee contacted life members. Treasurer report approved. MSA

Shirley David reports re Facebook. The issue is whether to continue as before, about \$200/year, not especially expensive. There was discussion about how Facebook presence is aimed primarily at youth and how to increase impact. MSA to continue.

In connection with material aimed at younger library users, the idea was discussed briefly of adding a teen representative to the F.O.L.K Board; discussion postponed for now, to be brought up later. Shirley will start by discussing with Kipapa about possible focus group or inviting a teen to sit in one of our meetings.

Suzanne Dmytrenko reports on programs. Boyd Bond, historian, spoke Tuesday the 12th on Hawaii property ownership history; about 50 attended, NaLeo videoed and cds will be available. Andrea Pro was suggested as speaker on communication exercises and has been booked for November 14, 5:30-6:30. Alex Rosenstein, author of *Double Edge Sword*, a Russian spy novel, offered to present a program. He lives here now. As a local author, the book club will buy copies, and Suzanne thinks it might be better to recruit him to book club. She is intended to book Derek Kalema, guitar player, and Man in White, a Polynesian music group, for future programs.

Bev Stehley reports on the book club. Today the book *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Next month *Bad Assed Librarian from Timbuktu*. Re Books for Babies, the new small plastic book bags are available. Mardee is checking to see if may be able to get books through "Reading Is Fundamental" (a non-profit) at a lower price.

The coupon (Continue to Read to Your Baby), offering a discount at library book sale, has been created to go into bag with a library bookmark and brochure.

Due to her husband's illness, Bev must take a leave of absence and probably won't attend Board meetings for the rest of year. Bev will ask at book club for someone to replace her as the book club coordinator.

In the course of the discussion about outreach, Fred Hornbruch mentioned he might be able to assist with a connection to local Rotary whose mission is "link to literacy".

Ken Guerra reports on Ways and Means. Last lanai book sale reached \$1075 -- over \$1000 every month with sale since January. Even with fewer books to put out, the sale still made same amount of money as when put out lots of books in the past. There were 27 regular volunteers; 13 student volunteers. This turns out to be the appropriate amount of volunteers for the workload; if more work or fewer volunteers, it would be problematic. There are enough bookmarks on hand to finish the last two sales of the year, November and December. Ken would like to have new bookmarks available for December to pass out for the coming year. It was suggested by some to change lanai book sales to the third Saturday or the month, instead of second Saturday. In the past when we had to adjust, sales commonly went to the third Saturday. Ken has the calendar from the high school with student activities to see which might conflict with book sales. Good lobby sales last week; also increasing input from Kealakekua. Ken will be out of commission for six months starting October. Board members have volunteered to help fill in. A subcommittee has been constituted: Suzanne Dmytrenko, Mardee Richardson, President Pamela Wang, and Ken. Ken will remain active via e-mail. Ken reports that Mardee doing great work organizing and streamlining pit activity. The purge of donated books didn't happen at end of May as directed; the pit was still accepting all donations during summer. The August lanai book sale put out roughly 400 boxes of books, 30-55 books each = 17,000 books hauled from loading dock to lanai and broken down at end; we sold 50 out of 400 boxes of books. The subcommittee agreed to a maximum of 200 boxes for any sale; the pit crew will have to be more selective about what is kept and what is purged. They will limit the amount of books in each of roughly 26 categories; four boxes per category limit. For the September book sale, only 130 boxes were put out; total sold was about 30% of inventory compared to perhaps 10% in August.

Mardee Richardson has been very active in reorganizing the pit. Volunteers are enjoying their participation, a very congenial group. Their system involves checking every title of every book to determine where it should go by category. The aforementioned subcommittee has designed signs to be put on side of each book to show category, and signs are color coded. Suzanne notes it took half hour to take all the boxes out for the last sale as opposed to over an hour in the past. Hard-backed fiction donations are accepted for sale only in the lobby but not for lanai sales any more. Last sale, at end of the sale volunteers left books in the category boxes, rather

than condensing, filling and making very heavy unsorted boxes to take back to the pit. Mardee will continue to meet with Marie to advance with the changes. Gift certificates for student volunteers were announced, but no one came in to claim them yet; one said he will come in next week.

Starting with the November sale, a point person will be needed to run the book sale, be present to direct, organize, field questions, handle the money, etc. November book sale is third Saturday (18th) week, before Thanksgiving. Pamela is always there for set up but usually leaves by 9 or 10. Mardee has prepared a checklist of book sale duties; it needs to be edited but then can be used. All signup sheets are in the purple sign-up binder kept in back with F.O.L.K. book sales materials. Two sign-up sheets are used for volunteers, one for adults (the same form as used for Board meetings, reported at end of year) and specific book sales signup sheets for students. A new excel spread sheet is being developed to keep track of books out, sold, etc.

Mardee Richardson reports on membership. August membership shows 397 on the roster, 276 current. She has updated the bookplate request log for higher membership levels. Her contacts with life members produced \$560 to date for the new lobby book display and books for babies program. The undersigned asks if there is any interest in resuming lifetime membership; last offered in 2001. The current posted maximum membership rate is \$100. Arne will research major donor, corporate, lifetime memberships as done by other organizations, to report in November. Mardee has been purging about 10 former members per month after being carried on list for a year as inactive and after two postcard reminders.

Denise Stromberg is welcomed back! She thanked the Board for the meal gift certificate. Jenn Losario like \$200 for children's programs for November and December. MSA Kona Stories tickets for pumpkin decorating contest; \$150 for multiple gift certificates ranging in value (\$25 - \$15 - \$10) for a program with decorated pumpkins (no cutting) based on a book character. She will also put in ten 3-book gift certificates for lanai sale. MSA Denise has ink drawings by Dr. W. Walsh, what to do with them? No answer agreed upon.

Shelly Brown reports re the Kealakekua branch. She has been removing old and broken furniture from underneath the library. Discretionary funds are down to \$100; she would appreciate shoring up. As future expenditures, she is looking into a water fountain and a charging station, cost would be about \$1000 each. She is also considering upgrading internet cubicles which are currently falling apart. She has been unable to interest state library system in these projects.

Arne reported re conversation with the County Probation Department about getting volunteers from persons sentenced to community service. Denise reports a history of utilization of community service people, but new custodian - Carmen is not ready to undertake supervision until after the first of year. Perhaps at that time community

service volunteers could then be involved, perhaps for pit crew duties, but probably not enough consecutive hours within the required condensed period of voluntary duties for F.O.L.K. to make use of this source for volunteers on any regular basis.

Mardee requests funds for two hand trucks for moving book boxes at less than \$100 each from Costco. Moved not to exceed \$200. MSA She also asked about buying Velcro to attach labels to boxes for lanai book sales. Denise suggests instead using a base of clear Scotch packing tape and then using duct tape to attach labels. It was decided not to purchase Velcro.

Next meeting is October 17th at 9:00 a.m.. Your humble Secretary will be absent in October. Meeting adjourned 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
ARNE WERCHICK
Secretary