

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES, KONA

F.O.L.K. BOARD MEETING MINUTES - August 18, 2020

The meeting, conducted via Zoom video conference, was called to order at 10:05 by President Wang. In attendance were Treasurer Barbara Isley, Secretary Arne Werchick, and Board members Suzanne Dmytrenko, Ken Guerra, Fred Hornbruch III, Joyce Kimball, John Kitchen, Donna Monti, and Mardee Richardson. Librarians Chezlani Casar and Judy Andrews also were present. Vice President Shirley David was excused. Invited guest: Linda Jeffrey.

Minutes of the July 21 meeting were approved. MSA

Barbara Isley presented the treasurer's report (additional information attached below). As a result of the approximately \$1500 eBay sales in July, most of the most attractive books are now gone. There were no eBay sales this month. The Crane grant used up with payment for children's room mural. Assets balance at the end of July: \$31,351. The original F.O.L.K. investment with Ameritrade was \$30,000 in April 2013; we have since withdrawn \$15,000 but our most recent balance is \$27,568.

Suzanne Dmytrenko checked with Na Leo local access tv to see if are now able to film, either in-studio or off-site, with new virus precautions in place, but they are not doing any at this time. Suzanne has a couple of groups that would perform for a video and present it as a F.O.L.K. program via local cable access; John Kitchen also has potential science programs suitable for Na Leo filming.

Linda Jeffrey, a regular volunteer, helps at the Kealakekua branch. With the cutback of custodial service to only an hour per day focused on interior cleaning, not attending to outside landscape maintenance, she asks if F.O.L.K. could arrange for four hours of outside maintenance twice a month, mostly trimming. Joyce Kimball will use a Kealakekua branch e-mail blast list to circulate a request for volunteers. Barbara Isley suggests we ask Kipapa if any member of the Community Seed Library might be interested in volunteering. Currently we are paying \$175/month for Kona branch landscaping. The undersigned moved F.O.L.K. allow a budget of up to \$175/month if necessary to engage professional landscape services. MSA

Donna Monti reports regarding the F.O.L.K. book group which met on July 28 via Zoom. Ken Guerra led the discussion of *My Ex-Life* with 7 participants. The next Zoom book club meeting will be held on August 25, and Caryl Burns will lead the discussion of *The Bookman's Tale: a novel of obsession*. Then September 22nd. Unfortunately most of the book club members aren't able or willing to join on Zoom.

Donna reports regarding Books for Babies that on July 28, she, Roma Johnson,

Mardee Richardson, and Bev Stehley met to pack Books for Babies bags. Mardee suggested a new way to pack which avoided proximity contact and sped the process. Following her new method, they were able to practice social distancing and packed approximately 135 bags. After a week holding to insure no contamination issues, Donna delivered the bags to Kona Community Hospital on August 3, 2020. Carol Noble of KCH sent a thank you letter.

Mardee Richardson reports that the Elks have approved a new grant to buy more books and bags when needed, amount presently unknown. Barbara Isley says we still have \$645 from their prior grant.

Joyce Kimball reports she is able to update events to the online calendar. West Hawaii Today in the discussion of F.O.L.K. and library services had reported dates incorrectly and got the e-mail address wrong as well. She will work directly with Chelsea Jensen, WHT editor in the future.

Ken Guerra reports on Ways and Means. Book sales still on hold, hard to make plans for future. Planning group discussed future book sale ideas, considering on-line sales, separate brick and mortar book store. No final conclusions. Discusses volunteer Kaipō Kailiawa's involvement, keeping open the link with the book store, advising regarding book sales, and warehousing books for us, in exchange for which he gets first pick as his compensation. Big Friends and Maui Friends are now using on-line book sales. When the library re-opens, the first line of sales will be in the lobby, and we will defer lanai sales. It was agreed that establishing an off-site book store or pop-up book sales was just not practical for F.O.L.K. It was also agreed we presently lack the expertise or staffing for a comprehensive on-line book sales effort.

Barbara Isley following up on Stacy's suggestion of an Amazon "wish list" for particular needs of the branches. The Board consensus is not to support such an effort but instead to regularly entertain branch special requests as needed.

Kona librarian Chezlani Casar agrees it is a good idea to focus on lobby sales, but has no idea when that will be. She believes we should keep looking into on-line sales using Big Friends as a model. Big Friends have two pickup locations for sold books and no mail delivery of books. To manage such an operation F.O.L.K. would need a big storage area.

Mardee Richardson reports we now have 379 members, 276 in good standing (i.e., not one year or more in arrears). (Detailed report attached below.)

John Kitchen's interview of Kona librarian Chezlani Casar was printed in West Hawaii Today in the July 29th edition and can be found at <https://www.westhawaiiitoday.com/2020/07/29/hawaii-news/hometown-heroes-chezlani-casar-and-the-team-at-the-kailua-kona-public-library/>

Chezlani reports the library system is dialing back public services and has canceled computer access time. Unfortunately a proportion of library patrons have been extremely unpleasant and hostile to library staff because of the shut-

down. The system has expanded wi-fi access into the parking lots of all branches. Kealahou librarian Judy Andrews says patrons there fortunately have been very polite, and they are still getting drive-by customers. "Mystery Bags" at Kealahou have been still very successful. The Kona branch has a similar system for having staff suggest books for a Custom Book Bundle.

At the moment there are no librarian funding requests. Judy Andrews expects she may shortly be requesting funding for book purchases.

President Wang suggests that the librarians advise what F.O.L.K. could do as a small gesture of appreciation for staff efforts during these difficult times such as having some sort of treat delivered.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44. The next meeting of the F.O.L.K. Board of Directors will be September 15th at 9:00 a.m. in the library if open or at 10:00 a.m. with Zoom.

Respectfully submitted
ARNE WERCHICK
Secretary

Reports attached:

Treasurer's Reports

Report: Accounts Summary Copy 2

Category

SHARE DRAFT CHECKING

INCOME	\$2,063.59
DONATIONS & GRANTS	\$75.00
Individuals	\$75.00
FUNDRAISING INCOME TAXABLE	\$1,602.90
Ebay Sale	\$1,602.90
Membership Dues	\$385.69
EXPENSE	-\$967.27
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	-\$16.35
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	-\$16.35
PAYPAL	\$0.00
Postage	-\$16.35
COST OF SALES	-\$52.05
Ebay/PayPal expenses	-\$52.05
F.O.L.K. PROGRAMS	-\$96.95
Book Club	-\$96.95
LIBRARY ASSISTANCE	-\$798.42
Maintenance	-\$175.89
Kailua Kona	-\$175.89
Programs	-\$565.00
Kailua Kona Children's Library	-\$565.00
Subscriptions	-\$26.17
Kealakekua	-\$26.17
Supplies	-\$31.36
Kailua Kona	-\$31.36
Taxes	-\$3.50
TOTAL	\$1,096.32

Membership Report

F.O.L.K.

July's data for August's Board Meeting

There were 379 members on our roster this month, of those 276 are members in good standing.

New Members

No new members this month.

Renewals, Edits, Updates, Issues

23 renewal reminder postcards were mailed and **9 renewals** were received.