**Friends of Peninsula Community Library (in person)**

**Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, September 22, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Kennedy at 1:05 p.m.

In attendance (in person): Penny Campo-Pierce, Chris Cipko, Tom Dallage, Nancy Davy, Marcia Decker, Nora Francis, Mary Kennedy (President), Madelyn Ryan (Vice-President), Vicki Shurly (Library Director), Nikki Sobkowski, Gretchen Soutear, Robbin Stott (Membership Chair), Lisa Taylor, Nancy Tucker (Secretary), Michele Westcott, Pat Wittkopp (Treasurer).

**Review/Approve 7/21/2021 minutes:** Copies of the minutes were available. No changes were suggested. The minutes were approved. It was pointed out that the minutes are on the library website for public view.

We went around the table and introduced ourselves and our role.

**PCL Director’s Report:** Library Director Vicki Shurly shared the following information:

* Life at the library is more normal than a year ago. Programming has resumed following MIOSHA guidelines, which require masks for all gatherings.
* The library has two new employees: Denise Olsen, who was formerly a paraprofessional library media aide at East Middle School, and Kim Lakes-Morman, a former high school math teacher and retired bank officer. These part-time positions will cover hours of two staff members who have chosen to cut back and take on fulltime positions elsewhere.
* Our Volunteer Thank You evening in the Children’s Garden (to thank board members, Friends’ members, gardeners, shelvers, craft preparers and more) was well attended and successful.
* The library is still giving out Covid vaccine record protector sleeves; 350 have been given out to date. When the children’s vaccine becomes available, demand will increase.
* Staff member Mary Morgan is working on a coloring book for the library based on Tim Carrol’s boyhood life on an Old Mission Farm.
* The library newsletter has been updated and given a new look by staff member Thena. It is mailed to all 3,400 Old Mission households.
* The Friends of PCL donated funds toward a bench, STEM kits, games, console table for the circulation desk, Explorer bags, and a bookcase. A big THANK YOU to us.
* In collaboration with the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society, a Covid Memorial tree was planted near the Carriage House. OM residents who have lost loved ones to the pandemic were invited to write letters on biodegradable paper which were planted with the tree. The ceremony included a welcome by the Historical society, the reading of a poem, a short dedication by Library Director Vicki Shurly and violin music. Twenty-eight people attended.
* Circulation for August 2021 was nearly 3,298 check outs, up from 2,317 in August last year. Twenty-nine new library cards were issued, 365 people participated in programs, and there were 1,624 website hits in August.

A question was posed by Gretchen Soutear about the garden’s status. Director Shurly explained that they are working on drainage in the garden beds and are in the process of getting quotes to address the problem.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Treasurer Pat Wittkopp provided a detailed report (copies available on request) which indicated that the book sale earned $5,917. In addition, Friends of PCL received several donations this year that totaled $3,355. FPCL balance is $31,712.

**President’s Report:** President Mary Kennedy thanked everyone for help with the book sale. It was truly a herculean effort by a number of people.

**Vice-President’s Report:** Vice-President Madelyn Ryan discussed the book sale results. She thanked her co-chair, Marcia Decker. She also thanked the 41 volunteers who contributed to the sorting, arranging, moving, and selling of books. The effort was greatly appreciated. These are the take-aways:

* The length of the sale was good.
* Having the rolling bookshelves was very helpful.
* Publicizing ahead of time what types and conditions of materials we could accept was very helpful, as was sorting as books came in (which the rolling bookshelves facilitated).
* Approximately 3500 books are left. Better World Books will take them. They will send boxes of the size they accept; we will box them up and put them on pallets. Better World Books will arrange the shipping—no charge to us. There was a discussion about how to get pallets. Nikki Sobkowski will gather some information regarding pallets.
* It is also understood that Better World Books may purchase rare books. Michele is looking into that.
* Better World books will not take DVD’s. It was suggested that they could go to the Women’s Resource Center or to Goodwill.
* On the Monday after the sale, representatives from the Senior Center took a box of books, and representatives from the Cedar Free Community Library took several boxes. A donation was made for books taken--$150. This will add to our total.
* We did not make as much money on this sale as we did in 2019. Discussion ensued regarding the differences in this year and that year, including post-Covid, different time of year, people’s caution. It was also pointed out that the sale we had in June raised $2000 in a 2-day sale, which adds to our book sale total. Also, years 2014-2017 were in the range of $5,000 to $6,600, so we were still in range from earlier years.

Various ideas were suggested to improve our results, including the following: a pricing increase, looking to see what other library book sales do, involving ourselves in Operation Paperback (an effort to provide books to military members), encouraging the Little Free Libraries to avail themselves of our books after the sale, continuing outreach to community groups. Discussion continued about teenage help for moving books. Lisa Taylor offered to organize outreach to younger people.

**Committee Reports**

**Membership Committee:** Membership Chair Robbin Stott reported that as of August 21, we have a total of 248 members compared with 191 last year. It breaks down this way:

* 50 individual members,
* 83 household members, (2 per household=166 members)
* 32 lifetime memberships.

Seventeen people joined to take advantage of the Member Presale of the book sale and were included in that total.

Because of the new lifetime membership category, 32 people will not be paying dues next year because they paid $100 this year. Of course, new people will “age into” the 75+ age group.

The membership form will go out in January 2022 for next year.

**Old Business:**

According to Library Board Member Nikki Sobkowski, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Peninsula Community Library Board and the Friends of PCL has been tabled for the time being.

**New Business:**

President Mary Kennedy brought up the idea of new book sale models, as follows: book sales more frequently for a shorter time, themed sales at particular times of the year. Other possibilities will be considered.

We are exploring the possibility of installing a heating/cooling unit in the Carriage House to make book sorting and pop-up book sales more comfortable in all kinds of weather. It was suggested that we submit a proposal to the Library Board regarding this.

Discussion continued about when and how to accept new donations. We settled on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, beginning in November. Depending on when the old books are gone, Madelyn will consult with Vicki on whether to begin on November 1st or November 15th.

Lisa Taylor and Nora Francis volunteered to fix up the Friends’ shelf in the library for us.

Bricks in the Garden will be an on-going project, ordered and installed once a year.

Marcia Decker showed us several craft projects made with old books.

\*\*Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

\*\*Next meeting will be November 17, 2021, at 1 p.m. in the Community Room of PCL.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Tucker