

Mount Vernon Library Foundation Minutes
Annual Membership Meeting
January 11, 2021

The Annual Membership Meeting commenced via Zoom at 5:30 pm.

Present were: President and Zoom Facilitator Hal Verrell; Board Directors Maryanne Ward, Marija Anderson, and Suzanne Butler; Library Director Isaac Huffman; Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau; City Councilmember Mary Hudson; and three at-large Foundation members.

The Agenda for the meeting included welcome and introduction, a presentation on the status of the Library Commons Project by Mayor Boudreau, an update on library operations by Director Isaac Huffman, a review of our Foundation activities for 2020, and a short business meeting.

Hal read our Mission Statement to begin the meeting.

Mayor Boudreau's presentation on the status of the Library Commons project is attached and is available on our Foundation's website. She summarized the project, starting with the broad project goals developed in Sept. 2018. In brief, In April of 2019, Skagit County opted out from a joint use project and agreed to negotiate the exchange and transfer of property for the project on Kincaid Street, directly opposite the County courthouse. The City commenced with Phase 1 environmental, title, alta, and archeological work and worked on state capital funds request. She reported that she was scheduled to meet with Skagit County Commissioners in a joint meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan 13, and reported the City is continuing to work on the financial model for approximately \$30 million.

Director Isaac Huffman thanked the Foundation for our work in 2020. He reported that:

1. The library partnered with the MVHS Mariachi group to reach out to that group of students
2. They are asking for help in developing the non-fiction collection to align with the community's interests and asked for feedback as to topics/titles people would like to see more of.
3. They have a "growing communities" project, with a seed exchange program
4. They are working to ensure that the best-circulating physical books are carefully handled, due to coronavirus concerns.
5. They are focusing on safe operations in the library itself. They hope to open with 25% capacity. They have worked on a long-term project to improve use of space with a new front desk which will help them to serve people better with easier access to staff. They are trying to make the space more modular, where furnishings can be taken up and put down for long-term flexibility and durability.
6. For the new Library Commons, they are thinking through a community-blended use of space that really meets people's wants and needs. They want space that can accommodate large and small gatherings, and myriad types of uses.
7. They are doing a lot of curbside business. One day recently they delivered 336 orders.

President Hal Verrell gave a brief update. The Foundation is 10 years old. We are trying to do things that are "foundational", as we look to the end of the pandemic, ways to help the Library resume more normal operations, and to supporting the efforts for the new Library Commons. He mentioned that we hope to have a "Library Giving Day" event on April 7, but we will have to wait until we know if in-person gatherings will be possible.

During 2020, the Foundation:

1. Updated bylaws. Membership is not pro-rated now, but staggered over the year with annual renewal dues payable in month membership expires. The officer terms are staggered. The Library Director is now an ex-officio member.
2. Switched donor management to the Bloomerang system
3. Engaged a designer to build a new website using Weebly
4. Corralled all previous names into the Bloomerang database
5. Did a first general email/snail mail contact outreach
6. Purchased a high-end laptop for library staff member
7. Ran a series of six ads in the SVH to promote the library
8. Raised \$1500 on Library Giving Day, April 23.
9. Raised \$2100 by being awarded the Skagit Co-op 4% Friday which was used to purchase Spanish and dual language materials for children and young adults.
10. Raised \$4400 on the "Adopt a Periodicals" project, by which 75 donors adopted 98 periodicals.
11. All in all Hal reported:
 - Total donations received = \$9,937.
 - Total membership fees = \$910
 - Expenditures to support the library = \$8,452
 - Administrative costs = \$2957 (software subscription, web designer, & CC fees)
 - Ending bank balance is \$10,305.
 - Ending Beard Endowment balance = \$921,798

Hal gave our goals for 2021:

- Increase community awareness of the Foundation and the Library Commons project
- Build Foundation membership
- Seat additional directors on the board
- Move financials to Quickbooks
- Conduct a virtual event—Sprint Library Giving Day is April 7
- Conduct an in-person events – post shutdown

We had a brief business meeting. All of our current Directors were re-elected to serve on the Board and to retain their current offices. They are: Hal Verrell, President; Maryanne Ward, Secretary; Marija Anderson, Treasurer; Suzanne Butler, Membership Coordinator. Note the office of Vice President is unfilled at present.

Treasurer Marija Anderson gave the following end-of-year Treasurer's summary report:

12/31/19 year-end balance	\$10,877.54
2020 Income	\$10,837.43
2020 Expenses	(\$11,409.02)
Balance as of 12/31/2020	\$10,305.95

The meeting adjourned at about 6:45 pm.

Maryanne Ward, Secretary