

Friends meeting Jun 11, 2022

Brenda McElroy, Mel Barrish, Lorena López-Rivera, Steve Walsh, Ruth Walsh, Linda Jordan, Karen Scott, Keith Gudger, Shelley, Irene Freiberg, Yolande Wilburn.

Toni started the meeting by saying we would focus on developing our organization and programs for the Capitola Library. She then introduced Yolande Wilburn.

Yolande said that it's wonderful that we've set a great example with raising funds through the bookstore. She is passionate about public libraries and what they mean to their communities. The library is looking at the organization and it's assessment as they do the strategic plan. We don't need to reinvent the wheel, we just need to find the right partners to achieve our goals. Toni asked about the FSCPL structure. What does Yolande see as the goal of the chapter friends' groups? Yolande commented that the FSCPL are really rethinking what the structure should be. Bruce and Janis are interested in each branch having their own group of Friends. Possibly the Friends will become a foundation.

Toni mentioned that the solar panels bid is happening in July. We're interested in expanding our programming for the coming couple of years. We currently take on one event from Our Community Reads. Capitola Friends sponsored 2 animation classes. We recently sponsored the Ukrainian aid worker session. She asked how Yolande looks at community generated programming? Yolande says Librarians should be doing programming and outreach. They need to look at who are our community partners? How do we use our facilities to serve the community? The library does the best work when all work together. She spoke about how important it is to match the community needs to what the library offers. Just doing things because they're cool is not a good reason to do it. The Friends play a huge role by connecting the community with the library. The strategic plan includes how we can foster public discourse - provide a space for the community to have a civil conversation.

Ruth is trying to understand if all the proposed programs need to be on the library property. How do we assess what we have and what we provide? Yolande says it's not about the building, we can go out in the community to provide programming. It could pop up in a park, it could be at Gayle's bakery. Maybe even partner with schools, such as a workshop at a school. In Scotts Valley, there is an MOU that says the library can use the theater 12 times a year. At Felton FSCPL signed an MOU with PGE and the County for sheltering residents during a power shutoff.

Yolande mentioned that Scotts Valley will reopen around July 22. Garfield Park's grand opening is today. For Branciforte and Live Oak it's not clear which will go first due to supply chain issues. Live Oak may be in September, Branciforte opening possibly in September or October. Mel reminded us about the 12th being the anniversary of the virtual opening of the Capitola Library and the 15th is the anniversary of the actual opening. Capitola's circulation numbers are larger than Downtown's.

In other business Steve would like to move on from being Vice Chair. Irene suggested that she could do the job. Moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.

Toni asked if we could create a survey about programming in the library. Brenda suggested a survey at the bookstore. We should also put it on the Capitola Friends website. Lorena can translate into Spanish. Shelley suggested asking at mobile home parks and the senior center.

Toni suggested holding the meeting every other month on the second Saturday and everyone agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.