

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of January 4, 2007 To Be Approved

A REGULAR meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chairperson, Edward Edwards, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 4, 2007 at the Administrative Conference Room, Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Call to Order

PRESENT: Boardmember Breisch, Chairperson
Edwards, Boardmember Field, Boardmember
Oppenheim and Vice Chair Stern

Roll Call

ALSO PRESENT: Claudia Fishler, Assistant City Librarian; Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Norma Angel, Administrative Analyst

Sally Ashear a docent at the Main Library made a request to the Board. She requested the Board consider placing a plaque in the Library to honor Elfie Asenath Mosse, the first City Librarian. Ms. Ashear distributed a brochure on Elfie Mosse who was the City Librarian for 49 years.

Communications from the Public

Elfie Mosse had a unique view of the Library seeing it as a community resource not a collection of books. In 1896 she adopted the controversial issue of direct access to shelves for library patrons. Ms. Mosse was an advocate for service to children and any child old enough to sign their name was granted a Library card. She began adult education programs with services for immigrants.

The Board directed staff to place discussion of a tribute to Elfie Asenath Mosse on the February Library Board agenda.

Greg Mullen, City Librarian, made a correction to the minutes. The Library updated the City Manager's Office on the budget not the City Council as stated in the minutes. On page two of the December minutes, the second paragraph, the second sentence should read, "As part of the mid-year budget the Library updated the City Manager's Office on the progress thus far."

Approval of the Library Board Minutes

Boardmember Field made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of December 7, 2006 as amended. Boardmember Oppenheim seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

The Board heard from Erica Tang, Young Adult Librarian, Salonee Bhaman and Yeji Lee two representatives from the Teen Council on the activities of the Council.

Report from the Teen Council

The Teen Council is comprised of 15 teens and Erica Tang the Young Adult Librarian. In October the council began working on a California Council for the Humanities youth project called *How I See It*. Santa Monica teens chose to focus on self expression. The title of the Santa Monica project is *Through Our Eyes*. Two ways Santa Monica teens express themselves are spoken word and urban art. Santa Monica teens participate in an open mic poetry event called Downbeat 720.

Through Our Eyes is the presentation on the importance of self-expression through spoken word and art that the teens will give on January 13 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium. The presentation will include spoken word performances.

Greg Mullen, City Librarian, gave a report on the Friends activities to the Board. The Friends approved spending \$1000 to support the Nordic Latitudes exhibit and \$2000 to support Library activities related to the millionth visitor celebration.

Report from the Friends of the Library, a Library Support Group

Lisa Pound who has been serving as the Treasurer will be transitioning to Vice President and new boardmember Howard Chung will be taking over the Treasurer position.

The Friends newsletter *Check it Out* will now be published twice a year instead of four times a year.

A non-profit organization performing a David Mamet play at the Miles Playhouse offered to partner with the Friends for a fundraising opportunity. The Friends would set the ticket price and sell tickets for the performance to their membership. The Friends declined participation at this time but would be open to future productions.

To mark the one year anniversary of the Main Library opening an amnesty week has been planned. The amnesty week will run January 6 -13. Also planned are balloons and treats for visitors on January 6.

Celebrations to Mark the One Year Anniversary and the One Millionth Visitor

The Library is planning a one millionth visitor celebration for April. Currently the Library has had 790,000 visitors. Projections show that the one millionth person will visit in mid April.

The Main Library is in the process of completing the transition from warranty period to contract services. The City Facility Maintenance staff is coordinating the maintenance contracts for the Library.

Update on Facilities Maintenance at the Main Library

One of the last items related to the Main Library punch list is replacement of the sewage ejector check valves. Wil Talaro, Building Systems Technician is coordinating the work.

Mr. Mullen reported there has been improvement in custodial services at the Main Library. However in the last year out of the scheduled hours employees have missed 6000 hours. This is equivalent to 3 full time

employees out of the crew of 10 people.

The Board discussed an article from the January 2 New York Times about libraries closing due to rowdy teens. Mr. Mullen informed the Board that on occasion Library staff speaks to parents who are leaving children of an inappropriate age alone at the library or parents whose child is causing a disruption. For the most part rowdy teens are not a problem at Santa Monica Libraries.

**Nationwide Current
Library Trends -
Review of Library
Journal Articles**

Mr. Mullen reported that the Santa Monica Public Library, Main Library appears in the December 2006 architectural issue of Library Journal.

The board welcomed Claudia Fishler the new Assistant City Librarian. Mr. Mullen reported that Diane Bednarski has been hired to fill the vacant Principal Librarian position in Information Management. She will start on January 29.

Secretary's Report

**Library Staff
Recruitments**

There is one position that remains unfilled and that is a position in facilities maintenance for the Library.

The Main Library received honorable mention for a design award from the Southern California Development Forum. Also the American Public Works Association of Southern California selected the Main Library as one of its projects of the year for 2006.

**Update on awards
received by the Main
Library**

Mr. Mullen updated the Board on the Nordic Lattitudes exhibit. The opening reception is February 1 at 6:30pm and the exhibit runs through March 18.

**Update on plans for
the Nordic Lattitudes
exhibit**

The Santa Monica Public Library, Friends of the Library, and Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners are presenting a six week design and discussion called Nordic LAttitudes, an educational exhibit showcasing the best in Nordic furniture and lighting design. The installation highlights Nordic inspiration for the award winning new Library facility. Designers to be featured include Poul Henningsen, Verner Panton, Arne Jacobsen, Poul Kjaerholm, Hans Wegner, Alvar Aalto, Eero Saarinen, and Poul Chritianson (Le Klint Lighting collection). Key topics to be discussed will include the timelessness of classic modern design, cultural connections, historical influences, key design features and manufacturing and production methodologies.

In February Michael Sheridan, Architect and Designer/Curator of Poul Kjaerholm Furniture Architect Exhibition at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark will speak on Nordic Attitudes: Modern Furniture in Denmark.

ISD will increase the bandwidth to combat the slow down in the Library network. This increase will double the bandwidth on the public network from 3 megabits per second to 6 megabits per second.

**Update on Library
technology issues**

Hardware and software has been added to stabilize the network as well. A product called Vernier has been installed to control the amount of bandwidth

any one individual can use during a session.

Library staff plans to implement a new product from SIRSI called Director’s Station which will provide staff access to statistics.

The laptops at the Fairview Branch Youth Technology Center were replaced by desktop machines. Software including; Mavis Beacon typing tutor, a program that will allow for photo manipulation and educational games were added to the computers. Two computers for teens were purchased for the Montana Ave. Branch. Funds for the upgrades were provided by a grant from the Gates Foundation.

The Green Prize for Sustainable Literature a collaboration between the Environmental Programs Division and the Library will be awarded in four categories: Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, Youth Fiction and Youth Nonfiction.

Plans for the “Green Prize” book awards

Books published in the US during the 2006 calendar year are eligible for the prize. Criteria include effective presentation of material; distinctive literary quality; and originality of scholarship.

The selection committee will consist of librarians and local authorities on sustainable issues.

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in next Library Board agenda: discussion of a tribute to Elfie Mosse; report on the teen program “Through Our Eyes”; update on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum process; didactic labels for the Stanton Macdonald Wright mural and a tour of the Main Library with facility maintenance in mind.

Agenda Building

Boardmember Oppenheim moved to adjourn the meeting. Boardmember Breisch seconded the motion. The motion was approved in a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Adjournment

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair