

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of May 1, 2008 To Be Approved

A REGULAR meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chairperson, Edward Edwards, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 1, 2008 at the Administrative Conference Room, Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

ALSO PRESENT: Janet Hand, Senior Administrative Analyst and staff liaison to the Disabilities Commission; Carol Agate, Disabilities Commission; Ann Wagner, Youth Services Librarian; Ilene Cohn, Youth Services Librarian; Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst

Boardmember Oppenheim relayed a comment from his son regarding the reorganization of the DVDs onto new face out shelving. The way the DVDs are shelved creates noise when patrons flip through them and patrons are unable to see several titles at once.

Public Input

Greg Mullen, City Librarian, reported that due to the number of negative comments received regarding the face out shelving the DVDs would be reshelved onto traditional shelving.

Boardmember Breisch made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of April 3, 2008. Boardmember Oppenheim seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Library Board Minutes

Greg Mullen, City Librarian, gave a report on the April 14, 2008 Friends' Board meeting. Signage visible from the North Courtyard and the Paseo was installed in the windows of the Friends' Bookstore. The Friends will share a booth with the Library at the Santa Monica Festival on May 10. The Friends are beginning to discuss a volunteer recognition event that will be held in October.

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

Carol Agate of the Disabilities Commission and Janet Hand, Senior Administrative Analyst and staff liaison to the Disabilities Commission attended the Library Board meeting to discuss disability access issues at the Library. Ms. Agate brought to the Board's attention the need for Library

Presentation from the Santa Monica Disabilities

computers that are accessible for people who have vision impairments. She explained that computer access is needed for people with no vision and for people with limited vision. She reported that there is a software program called Jaws that speaks all of the information on the screen. The Library does not currently have software for individuals with vision impairments.

Commission

Mr. Mullen reported that Library staff is exploring different types of assistive technology including an oversized mouse or a foot controlled mouse and special keyboards for individuals who have physical limitations. The equipment could be checked out on a first come first served basis and can be attached to the computer workstations in the Library. Library staff recently visited the Torrance Public Library and the Long Beach Public Library. Both of those libraries have special assistive technology centers run by volunteers. Staff also attended a conference on assistive technology.

The Library currently offers an optilect machine which enlarges documents, large print books, magnifiers and audio books for people who have impaired vision. Also assistive listening technology is available in the Library meeting rooms and the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium. The Library Service Officers are trained on the technology and can assist users.

Ms. Agate reminded staff that contact information for those requiring special services be listed in publicity for programs and events at the Library.

Board discussion followed. The Board asked that Library staff make a report when a final analysis is reached.

Youth Services Librarians Ann Wagner and Ilene Cohn made a presentation to the Board on Musical and Rhythm Storytime. Two years ago they started a very popular musical storytime for ages 2 – 5 at Santa Monica Public Library. In March 2008 Ms. Wagner and Ms. Cohn traveled to Minneapolis to present a program at the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference on the importance of musical storytime and how it enhances emergent literacy.

Presentation from Youth Services Librarians Ann Wagner and Ilene Cohn on Musical Storytime

There are six emergent literacy skills children need to have before they begin to read: print motivation, vocabulary, print awareness, narrative skills, phonological awareness and letter knowledge. These skills can be developed through musical storytime. The pair suggests choosing books that have a natural rhythm and incorporating a musical element. 435 librarians attended the program at PLA.

Board discussion followed.

Boardmember Oppenheim made a motion to approve a \$50 per hour fee for two Library Inspectors to staff before or after hours events scheduled in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium. Boardmember Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion passed in a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Fee for Library Inspectors for Events Scheduled in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium During Library Closed Hours

The Board viewed the Library Board video that was presented at the Annual Board and Commission Dinner in April. This year the video focused on the

Presentation of the Library Board Video for the Annual Board

branch libraries.

No report.

Staff distributed the monthly statistics for March 2008. The March report included a breakdown in circulation by category. Board discussion followed.

Between 400 -500 people attended Culturejam on April 12. The event included international booths, food, programs and entertainment from 1pm - 4pm. Erica Cuyugan, Young Adult Librarian and the Santa Monica Public Library Teen Council developed the event, selected performers, decorated and manned the booths.

Reusable shopping bags are available at the libraries and the Friends' Bookstore. Youth Services is giving out a reusable shopping bag for Summer Reading this year. Children who reuse the bag from year to year will receive a badge or a pin to put on the bag.

The Library's budget request is moving forward however; items with additional cost were not approved. After hours use of the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium was approved as a cost neutral item. Users will pay an additional staffing fee to keep the building open. Expansion of the City's fiber network is planned for fiscal year 2008/09 which will result in additional bandwidth for the Library.

The quick check software has been updated, installed and is working reliably. The software has to be customized before it can be utilized on the quick check stations at the Main Library. Completion of the work may take four weeks.

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: an update on the shotgun house and a report on Citywide Reads.

Boardmember Oppenheim moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Edwards seconded the motion. The motion was approved in a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair

**and Commission
Dinner**

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

Secretary's Report

**March 2008 Monthly
Statistics**

**Report on National
Library Week and
Culturejam**

**Reusable Shopping
Bags Available at
Libraries and
Bookstore**

**Update on Library
Budget for Fiscal Year
2008/09**

**Update on the Quick
Case Unlocking
Equipment at the Main
Library**

Agenda Building

Adjournment