

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of August 7, 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, August 7, 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: Donnae Tidwell, Librarian II Youth Services; Claudia Fishler, Assistant City Librarian; Norma Angel, Administrative Analyst

No report.

Public Input

The Board discussed a letter from Yvonne Raphael regarding patrons who are sleeping in the Library. Library staff routinely wakes sleeping patrons. Claudia Fishler, Assistant City Librarian, will draft a response letter on behalf of the Board.

Communications from the Public

Boardmember Oppenheim made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of July 10, 2008. Boardmember Breisch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Library Board Minutes

Claudia Fishler, Assistant City Librarian, gave a report on the Friends of the Library July Board meeting. The Friends purchased a popcorn machine to be used for events at the Library. The Bookstore is making approximately \$200 a month from online book sales. Two Bookstore volunteers will be hosting a seminar to instruct volunteers in best practices for sorting books. The Membership Chair is preparing a Friends of the Library FAQ to be given out at Friends events and put on their website.

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

Donnae Tidwell, Librarian II Youth Services, gave a demonstration of Brainfuse an online tutoring service available through Santa Monica Public Library.

Report on Brainfuse

Students in grades 3 through 12, as well as those taking introductory college courses, can access the HelpNow program from Brainfuse, Inc via public computers at one of the Santa Monica Public Libraries or from home using their library card.

HelpNow allows students to connect one-on-one with a live tutor to get academic assistance for a specific homework problem or in an area of study. The average tutoring session lasts 20 minutes but can last as long as the student needs assistance. Spanish speaking tutors are also available.

HelpNow provides library patrons with live, on-demand homework help, state-aligned skills building lessons from expert tutors, and a 24-hour writing lab. With HelpNow, tutors and students communicate in real time by typing, drawing, and marking-up lessons/web content. In addition, students may use HelpNow's secure file sharing feature to submit their papers to trained writing instructors any time of the day.

All HelpNow tutors possess four-year college degrees, must undergo a rigorous selection and training process, and must complete a full background and security check.

Ms. Fishler demonstrated an assistive technology keyboard the Library purchased for use in the computer commons. The keyboard has large letters and a track ball mouse with large buttons. Staff also purchased a joystick for patrons who are unable to use a mouse. Staff will continue to explore new assistive technology devices.

The City of Santa Monica's homepage has undergone a redesigned. Each City Department is working with an outside vendor to redesign their internal homepage.

Library staff is working with a consultant to redesign the Library website. Over the past few months staff contributed input on web templates, design and content. Staff will also receive training on how to update and make changes to the website. The Library plans to go live with the new website by the end of the year.

No report.

Ms. Fishler gave an update on the Spanish language audiobook collection. She reported that the Library currently holds 105 copies, 18 are currently checked out and there has been 115 circs since beginning the collection. Spanish language audiobooks are available at Fairview and the Main Library.

Staff distributed the June 2008 Library statistics. Board discussion followed.

Staff installed another section of DVD shelving. TV series will now have its own section at the end of the range of shelving.

The public internet bandwidth in the City has been upgraded. At times there are temporary surges in bandwidth usage but the average usage remains

**Follow up on
Assistive Technology**

**Report on the Design
of the Library Website**

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

Secretary's Report

**Update on the
Spanish Language
AudioBook Collection**

**Library Statistics for
June 2008**

**New DVD Shelving
Installed**

**Public Internet
Bandwidth Upgrade**

around 15 megs.

The Library received a grant from the State of California to digitize the *Evening Outlook* newspaper for the years 1875 -1910. Staff will be seeking additional funding for volumes post 1910. The newspaper added pages in 1910 therefore it will cost more to digitize the later dates.

Grant Received for Digitization of the Evening Outlook Newspaper

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in next Library Board agenda: update on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum; Library Board plaque; swearing in and reappointment of Ken Blackwell; final revisions of the meeting room policy; and statistics on self check out.

Agenda Building

Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

Adjournment

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair