

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of September 4, 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, September 4, 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: Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst

Boardmember Oppenheim commented that he received a complaint regarding the North Courtyard door leading to the parking garage stairwell being locked when the garage is open.

Public Input

Boardmember Oppenheim made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of August 7, 2008. Chair Edwards seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Library Board Minutes

Greg Mullen, City Librarian, reported on the Friends of the Library August 11 Board meeting. The Friends granted \$2,000 in funding to the Living Library Project. During the Living Library event on October 18 from 12-4pm the shelves of the Main Library will be full of living books. Patrons will be able to check out a person for a 30 minute conversation at the Santa Monica Public Library's first Living Library. The Living Library idea is simple – a personal conversation can break down prejudices and pre-conceptions and dialogue fosters understanding and tolerance. Among the people available for check out are a Buddhist, a teenager, a nudist and a raw foodist.

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

The Friends discussed what level of additional funding they would be willing to provide for Citywide Reads 2009.

The Kiwanis Club donated \$2500 to the Friends of the Library to purchase copies of the Santa Monica High School required reading

book Enrique's Journey.

In July City Council reappointed Ken Blackwell to the Library board. Boardmember Blackwell took the oath of office and was sworn in.

Swearing in and Reappointment of Boardmember Blackwell

Ellen Braby, Head of Youth Services, reported on Summer Reading 2008. The theme this summer was *Catch the Reading Bug*. Due in part to the popularity of the free reusable bag given out with Summer Reading registration 12% more children registered. More programs were offered this year and program attendance increased by 10%. One of the highlight programs for teens was a six week writing workshop with presentations by a variety of young adult authors. This year 1,638 children and teens registered for Summer Reading and they read more than 17,000 hours.

Report on Summer Reading

Erica Cuyugan, Young Adult Librarian, received a grant for a photography workshop targeted to teens. The grant provided digital cameras, printers and funding for an instructor. An exhibit of the photos will be held in September.

Mr. Mullen reported that the Ocean Park Branch needs some improvements. Staff would also like to increase the level of activity at the Branch Library so improvements that include implementing merchandising of the collection are being considered. Staff has been working with a consultant from the San Jose Library which has a program that addresses merchandising and marking in libraries. The goal is to make the collection as user friendly and accessible as possible.

Ocean park Branch Space Planning for Potential Remodel

Mr. Mullen distributed a floor plan of the proposed changes to the Ocean Park Branch. Staff work spaces would be moved out of the public area and popular materials would be placed so they are visible as you walk in the front door. Staff will prepare a Capital Improvement Project proposal for next fiscal year.

Boardmember Stern suggested utilizing the front entrance of the Branch to create some interest and activity along Main Street.

The Board asked to meet at the Ocean Park Branch for the October Board meeting.

Library and City staff has been meeting with the Pico Neighborhood Association and the school district to discuss library service to the Pico Neighborhood. There is a history of interest in the Pico Neighborhood for a Library service center.

Report on Library Service to the Pico Neighborhood

In discussions with the Pico Neighborhood Association priorities for Library service have been identified as:

- an emphasis on the culture and history of the community
- a place to learn and store cultural heritage
- a need for computers, access to the internet and access to software for creative expression
- materials that include; Spanish language, cultural, ethnic studies, children's, family and popular in both print and non print
- the facility should be comfortable and aesthetically pleasing
- the naming process of the facility is important
- emergent literacy for ages 0-5
- service that addresses student success
- staff that understands the community
- concerned about limited hours at the Edison school site

Some concerns that have been identified with a joint use school district and city library project are; access, funding and fit. Virginia Ave. Park is being discussed as an alternate location for a site. Mr. Mullen reported that follow up meetings have been scheduled.

The Board is supportive of a possible library site in the Pico Neighborhood and encourages future discussion. Board discussion followed.

No report.

The Museum staff is currently finalizing telephone, audio visual, computer systems and security plans. The next step is to go out to bid for a contractor in September and then start construction in November. The Museum received a large donation from the John Gillmore estate.

Staff reported that they are sending the plaque concept out to another vendor for a design.

Staff distributed the July 2008 Library statistics. Self check out is at 41% and 42% usage over the last two months. Board discussion of self check out followed.

Mr. Mullen reported on Library staff recruitments. A new Librarian I was hired in Youth Services. Ellen Braby, Head of Youth Services, will be retiring at the end of the year and Donnae Tidwell, Librarian II, will also be leaving Youth Services. Their departures will create some

Nationwide Current Library Trends - Review of Library Journal Articles

Secretary's Report

Update on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum

Library Board Plaque

Library Statistics for July 2008

Library Staff Recruitments

vacancies in the department. Two Reference Librarians Nanette Schneir and Gera Freeman are retiring at the end of the year.

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: update on Library service to the Pico Neighborhood; Library Board plaque; a technology report from Diane Bednarski, Head of Information Management; and an update on Citywide Reads 2009.

Agenda Building

Boardmember Breisch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Edwards seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Adjournment

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair