

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of November 6, 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, November 6, 2008 at the Administrative Conference Room, Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

ALSO PRESENT: Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst

No report.

Public Input

Boardmember Breisch made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of October 2, 2008. Boardmember Oppenheim seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Library Board Minutes

No report. The Friends' Board did not meet on October 13 due to a lack of quorum.

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

Chair Edwards received a call from community member Ruthann Shanley who had a complaint about children being allowed to use the computers anywhere in the library while adults are limited to using the computers in the computer commons. Mr. Mullen, City Librarian, has spoken to Ms. Shanley with respect to this complaint.

Communications from the Public

Mr. Mullen explained that adults are not allowed in the Children's Services area unaccompanied. Adults may not use the computers in the children's area unless they are helping their child use the computer. However, children may use the computer in the computer commons.

Board discussion followed and it was determined that no action was necessary.

Library staff plans to implement an administrative policy requiring patrons to physically have their library card in order to check out materials. Mr. Mullen reported that the advantages of patrons having their card are the ability to use the self check station and a faster and more accurate check out transaction. Additionally in the event that the Library is in back up

Requiring a Library Card for Check Out

circulation mode a library card is required.

The first time a patron forgets their library card they would be given a reminder to bring their library card and would be allowed to check out materials using their ID. The second time a patron forgets their library card they would either have to leave their items in will call and come back with their library card or register for a new library card. Patrons receive one free replacement card and additional replacement cards are \$1.00.

Boardmember Oppenheim moved to accept the policy as presented by the City Librarian. Boardmember Breisch seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

The Board asked for updates on the implementation of the policy.

Chair Edwards discussed an article from Library Journal about a new scanner that scans and reads books for people who are visually impaired. Board discussion followed.

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

On Saturday, October 18, the Santa Monica Public Library's shelves were filled with people, "Living Books". A formerly homeless woman, a raw foodist, an Oaxacan-American, a teenager, and a nudist were just a few of the people that were checked out by individuals and families for a thirty minute personal conversation. The goal of the project was to foster understanding and develop connections through dialogue. Both the books and readers reported that they were impressed with the quality of the conversations and one participant wrote, "Speaking with the homeless advocate was a revelation--very informative and emotionally profound."

Secretary's Report

**Report on the Living
Library Event held
October 18**

Participants came from as far away as Japan and Denmark. There was strong media interest, including on-site local reporters as well as national and international coverage with an Associated Press article and a documentary by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Because of the success of the event, the Library plans to host another Living Library event in April 2009.

The City has implemented a new policy to fingerprint all volunteers working with the City of Santa Monica. The Library will begin fingerprinting all new library volunteers that have an ongoing relationship with the Library.

**Fingerprinting Library
Volunteers**

The Main and Branch Libraries will participate in the Day Without a Bag event on December 18. Patrons who check out three or more items with a library card will receive a free bag. This is the second year that the Library will participate.

Day Without A Bag

Mr. Mullen reported that Library and City staff continues to develop library service to the Pico Neighborhood. Library staff is working on the program plan, the Economic Development Division is searching for a site and the Public Works Department is developing a contract with an architect to work

**Update on Library Service
to the Pico Neighborhood**

on a site and feasibility study.

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

Library Statistics for September 2008

Mr. Mullen reported that In-Service day is being planned for November 11. Almost 140 Library staff members will be attending the customer service focused training day.

Planning for Staff In-Service Day, November 11

Human Resources is currently accepting applications for a Librarian II position in Information Management and a Librarian III position in Youth Services.

Staff Recruitments

Assembly Bill 1234 requires that the Library Boardmembers attend two hours of ethics training every two years. The City Attorney's and City Clerk's office will conduct three trainings in November and December to help boardmembers fulfill the training requirement.

Ethics Training for the Library Board

The community budget meetings have been scheduled for November and December. The meetings are an opportunity for the community to speak to the city manager and city staff about the city budget.

Community Budget Meetings

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in next Library Board agenda: update on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum; an update on the shotgun house; update on the renovations at the Ocean Park Branch; maintenance issues at Main; and a report from the Teen Council.

Agenda Building

Boardmember Oppenheim moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.

Adjournment

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair