

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the SPECIAL Meeting of April 2, 2009 To Be Approved

A SPECIAL meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chairperson, Edward Edwards, at 7:08 p.m., Thursday, April 2, 2009 at the Community Room, Montana Ave. Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave., Santa Monica.

Call to Order

PRESENT: Boardmember Blackwell, Chairperson Edwards and Vice Chair Stern

Roll Call

ALSO PRESENT: Pro Se, community member; Bill Bauer, contributing writer, Santa Monica Daily Press; Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Norma Angel, Administrative Analyst

No report.

Public Input

Pro Se, community member, commented on the March 5, 2009 Library Board minutes. Boardmember Blackwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of March 5, 2009. Vice Chair Stern seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Library Board Minutes

Chair Edwards gave a report on the Friends of the Library Board meeting and activities. On Saturday, May 2 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. the Friends' Bookstore will hold a book sale of signed copies, first editions, coffee table books, art books and more.

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

Chair Edwards reported on the Friends' volunteer recognition brunch that was held at the Main Library on March 1. The Friends received positive feedback from the volunteers who attended the event.

Bill Bauer, contributing writer, Santa Monica Daily Press commented and asked questions with regard to some recent letters to the editor in the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Communications from the Public

Board discussion followed.

The Santa Monica Resident Survey was conducted by a consultant via telephone (including cell phones). Mr. Mullen, City Librarian, reported that the Library rated highest in service at 82% among Santa Monica residents and also rated very high in funding priorities.

Santa Monica Resident Survey

The Library submitted a 3% savings plan that represents a total of \$330,000 in savings. This plan has been accepted and will be implemented in the current 2008/09 fiscal year. The Library's 5% savings plan representing a total of \$550,000 in savings for fiscal year 2009/10 is expected to be approved.

Update on the Library Budget Plan

Library staff reviewed the fines and fees and found that the rates have not changed since fiscal year 1993-94. The Library's current fines are slightly lower than those in the surrounding libraries. Staff is proposing a 5 cent increase to both adult and children's late fees. Adult late fees would increase to 25 cents and children's late fees would increase to 15 cents. Also proposed is an increase in the cost of printing from 10 to 15 cents a page.

Another proposed change would be that patrons' accounts would need to be fully paid before they could renew their Library card.

Library staff has been discussing the hold process and a change in the hold limit will be implemented. The current hold limit is 25 items. The new limit will be 10 items. Staff reported that most patrons with holds have fewer than 10 items on hold. This change will increase availability and turnaround time of items.

Board discussion followed. The Board would like to have further discussion of fines and fees at the May board meeting.

Mr. Mullen reported that there have been several bike thefts from Main in the last month. In these cases the bikes were either unlocked or not properly locked. The thefts were reported to the police department.

Review of Library Security Issues

In response to the thefts the Library Service Officers (LSOs) have begun more frequent patrols of the Library grounds both inside and outside of the facility and in the parking structure.

The LSOs are also increasing patrols in the Computer Commons area due to recent problems.

Staff is inventorying the collection. Currently the process is very labor intensive. However, several vendors have products that will help in this area.

The Board discussed various articles from Library Journal.

Nationwide Current Library Trends - Review of Library Journal Articles

Mr. Mullen reported that he had an email from Iao Katagiri on the progress of the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum. Ms. Katagiri stated in her email that they are working with a contractor to develop cost estimates, constructability assessments and schedules. However, more funding is needed before the Museum staff can sign a contract with a builder.

Secretary's Report

Update on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum

Mr. Mullen, Boardmember Oppenheim and Vice Chair Stern attended the Annual Board and Commission Dinner held at the Sheraton. Chair Edwards worked with City TV to produce the Board's annual video report.

Report on the Annual Board and Commission Dinner

The Image Archives have been transferred to a new database management system known as ContentDM. The new database called "Imagine Santa Monica" will go live on the Library's website on April 6. Each Archive record has been edited, extensive subject headings and descriptions have been added, and searches by date are now possible.

Update on the new Library Website

The Library's webmaster, Diane Bednarski, Principal Librarian for Information Management is working with a team on the new Library website.

The Board reviewed Library statistics for February 2009. Board discussion followed.

Library Statistics for February 2009

In April the Library will migrate its patron online catalog from iBistro to e-Library. The primary differences with the new interface are:

Online Library Catalog Update

- Streamlined look and feel, with a color scheme that is compatible with the planned design of the Library's new website
- The return of the Go Back function within the Place Hold dialog (to allow one to go back to the search results screen after placing a hold)
- The ability to view detailed item information when viewing a list of items on one's account
- Support for future planned upgrades to additional enhanced content, i.e. cover art and reviews for audiovisual material and non-English titles

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in next Library Board agenda: discussion of proposed fines and fees; update on the Library budget; report on Citywide Reads; report on the Living Library Project; report on the Living Room event and a demo of Imagine Santa Monica.

Agenda Building

Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:23pm.

Adjournment

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair