

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of March 4, 2010 To Be Approved

- Call to Order** A REGULAR meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chairperson, Edward Edwards, at 7:02 p.m., Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the Administrative Conference Room, Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.
- Roll Call**
- PRESENT:** Boardmember Blackwell, Boardmember Breisch, Chairperson Edwards and Boardmember Oppenheim
- ABSENT:** Vice Chair Stern
- ALSO PRESENT:** Wright Rix, Principal Librarian for Reference Services; Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst
- Public Input** No report.
- Approval of the Library Board Minutes** Motion by Boardmember Oppenheim, seconded by Boardmember Breisch to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of February 4, 2010. The motion was approved by the following vote:
- AYES: Boardmember Breisch, Chairperson Edwards, Boardmember Oppenheim
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Boardmember Blackwell and Vice Chair Stern
- Library Periodicals Selection Process** Wright Rix, Principal Librarian for Reference Services, spoke to the Board about the Library periodicals selection process.
- During the design of the new Main Library staff learned through discussions with the City Attorney's office that by having a giveaway section of publications a public forum was being created. Since the area was a public forum staff would lose the ability to select items for the giveaway publications. Therefore, staff established a selection process

for free as well as paid periodicals.

The giveaway publications are viewed as an extension of the periodicals' collection and are selected through the same process allowing staff to consider the free publications as part of the Library collection.

The Board suggested that publications that go through the selection process and are rejected receive a letter with the decision and a copy of the periodicals selection criteria.

Staff plans to update their process of communicating with the publishers of free publications that are dropped off at the Library.

Boardmember Blackwell arrived at 7:15 p.m. during the Library periodicals selection process discussion.

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

Greg Mullen, City Librarian, gave a report on the Friends of the Library February Board meeting. The Friends approved several requests for funds from Library staff. The online book sales are ongoing. The Friends discussed a strategic plan for their membership. The Friends' volunteer recognition brunch is on March 7th at 10 a.m.

Update on the Library Budget Plan

Mr. Mullen reported that there is a projected budget shortfall of \$13 million in the city's general fund for fiscal year 2010/11. City departments have been asked to present four budget proposals for fiscal year 2010/11, a maintenance of effort budget which is a flat budget and budgets that reflect cuts of 3%, 5% and 7%. City staff has been asked not to make cuts to salaries and wages.

A large part of the Library's budget is salaries and wages. Excluding cuts to salaries and wages would mean that Library staff would have to make up to a 30% cut in the materials' budget. This budget cut would have a substantial impact on the Library's collection. Library staff is proposing a reduction in hours at the Main Library as an alternative to the cut in the materials' budget.

The Library Board's suggestion was to focus on maintaining service to the community and any budget cuts not affect the staff's ability to maintain the Library collection.

Mr. Mullen discussed various closure scenarios with the Board.

The next step is for the department heads to meet with the City Manager to discuss the proposed budget cuts.

The Board reviewed a draft letter to the City Manager and City Council regarding the Library budget priorities. Chair Edwards reminded the Board that the replacement of the Integrated Library System (ILS)

continues to be a priority for the Library. ILS is the software responsible for managing patron transactions and reporting fines and fees.

Report on Citywide Reads 2010

Mr. Mullen reported that the afternoon with Chris Cleave and the program The Voices of *Little Bee*, an onstage reading of passages from *Little Bee*, were popular and well received. The City TV call in show featured a live, moderated discussion of the book and facilitated book discussions are being held in various venues throughout the city. Citywide Reads 2010 wraps up March 13.

Update on the Pico Area Branch Library Project

City Council reaffirmed the location of the Pico Branch Library in Virginia Ave. Park and authorized the City Manager to negotiate a contract with Koning Eizenberg Architects.

Nationwide Current Library Trends - Review of Library Journal Articles

No report.

Secretary's Report

Update on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum

Mr. Mullen reported there were no new updates on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum. Construction of the museum space should be completed in June.

Library Statistics for January 2010

Staff distributed the January 2010 Library statistics. Board discussion followed.

Facility Update

The Ocean Park Branch was tented for termites. Staff is working with a designer to replace the exterior sign at the Ocean Park Branch. Landscaping work has been completed at the Fairview and Ocean Park Branches. Staff is negotiating the replacement of soil in the planters at the Main Library.

Upcoming Programs

- Montana Ave. Branch Library is celebrating 50 years at 1704 Montana Ave. on April 10 from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- A Santa Monica Public Library - Living Library Project is planned for May 8 from 12 noon – 4 p.m. at the Santa Monica Festival. Living “books” will share a significant personal experience or a particular perspective on life through a 30 minute personal conversation.
- On May 22 the Library will host iCycle an event focusing on bicycles and cycling featuring: workshops on safety, repairs and maintenance; bicycle registration; gear and accessories demonstrations; BMX flatland demonstration and clinic featuring Jesse Puente; children’s crafts and bike parade; and

entertainment for the whole family.

Agenda Building

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: update on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum; update on the Pico Branch Library; and a wrap up on Citywide Reads.

Adjournment

Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen
City Librarian

Edward Edwards
Library Board Chair

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