

# SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



## Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of February 7, 2013 To Be Approved

- Call to Order** A REGULAR meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chairperson Ken Blackwell, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 7, 2013 at the Main Library, Administrative Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.
- Roll Call**
- PRESENT:** Chairperson Ken Blackwell, Boardmember Ken Breisch, Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, Vice Chair Kathie Sheldon and Boardmember Dan Stern
- ABSENT:** None
- ALSO PRESENT:** Edward Edwards, President, Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library; Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst
- Public Input** No report.
- Approval of the Library Board Minutes** Motion by Boardmember Gene Oppenheim seconded by Vice Chair Kathie Sheldon, to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of December 6, 2012. The motion was approved by the following vote:
- AYES: Chairperson Ken Blackwell, Boardmember Ken Breisch, Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, Vice Chair Kathie Sheldon and Boardmember Dan Stern
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None
- Report from the Friends of the Library, a Library Support Group** Edward Edwards, President, Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, reported on the January Friends of the Library Board meeting. Mr. Edwards has discussed the Friends' nonprofit status with a CPA. The Friends' Board sent a letter to approximately 40 donors regarding the nonprofit status and the tax deductibility of their 2012 donation. The Friends may need to pay some income taxes for the bookstore.
- 2013-2015 Library Budget Discussion** Greg Mullen, City Librarian, reported that the City Manager has asked departments to propose budget adjustments totaling 5%, for the Library budget that is approximately \$571,000. Staff has been asked to look at revenue opportunities as well as expenditure cuts.

A nonresident library card fee of \$20.00 per year is being proposed. Approximately half or 50,000 Santa Monica Public Library registered borrowers are nonresidents. The Library no longer receives transaction based reimbursement from the state which provided the Library with approximately \$300,000 per year to offset the cost of nonresident borrowing.

Boardmember Oppenheim stated he would like the Library to have a way to waive the nonresident fee if a patron cannot afford it.

The Pico Branch operating budget was estimated at \$1,000,000 last year. Staff is proposing reducing the budget by \$100,000. Three additional support staff positions - Library Service Officer, Custodian and Computer Support Specialist will be eliminated.

Currently internet use is free and limited to 120 minutes per day. Internet use requires registration for a regular library card or internet card (for nonresidents and those without ID). Staff is proposing eliminating the internet card and charging \$2.00 per internet session. The fee would apply to all sessions by nonresidents and those without a regular library card. Holders of regular library cards will be allowed to purchase extra internet time.

Staff also plans to reduce the materials budget by \$50,000 and miscellaneous expenditure accounts by a total of \$61,000.

Borrowers are currently blocked if they owe \$20 or more. Staff plans to reduce the limit to \$5. This change will be implemented in March. The goal is to reduce the amount of accounts receivable being carried from month to month. Patrons will still be required to pay down their account to zero when renewing their library card.

Board discussion followed.

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

The Board discussed library articles related to library service.

**Secretary's Report**

**Update on Library  
Services and  
Programs**

Santa Monica Reads begins on February 16 and runs until March 23. There are a number of free public book discussions and events planned. On March 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Middle School Auditorium the author, R.J. Palacio, will present a discussion of *Wonder*, followed by a book sale and signing.

A new look has been developed for Imagine Santa Monica the Library's image archive site. The software has been updated and the *Santa Monica Evening Outlook* is now online through 1925.

On February 23 the Santa Monica Public Library Teen Council will hold an information scavenger hunt event called Urban Quest consisting of groups of teens plus a chaperone. Each member of the winning team will receive a gift card in the amount of \$100.

**Update on Library Staffing**

Mobile versions of the Library catalog are now available for iPhone and Android.

Catherine Ronan the Fairview Branch Manager is retiring in May.

**Update on Library Facilities and Equipment**

A change in the parking rates at the Main Library parking garage is on the City Council agenda for February 12. The change in parking fees will be implemented in April.

Mr. Mullen reported on the construction progress for the Pico Branch Library project. Nine rain delay days have been recorded. The completion date is still shifting.

**Update on Library Security and Safety**

Karl Bruskotter from the Office of Sustainability and the Environment made a presentation to staff about bedbugs.

**Library Statistics**

Staff distributed the November and December 2012 Library statistics. Board discussion followed.

**What Are You Reading?**

The Boardmembers discussed the books they are reading.

**Agenda Building**

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: an update on the Library budget discussion and a report on programs at the Library. The Board requested to hold the March meeting at a Branch Library.

**Adjournment**

Chair Ken Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:



Greg Mullen

City Librarian

Ken Blackwell

Library Board Chair