

# SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



## Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of February 5, 2009 To Be Approved

A REGULAR meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chairperson, Edward Edwards, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 2009 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:** Josephine Roth, member of the community; Julie MacDonald, Librarian II Public Services; Susan Annett, Principal Librarian for Public Services; Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst

No report.

**Public Input**

Boardmember Oppenheim made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of January 8, 2009. Boardmember Breisch 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 January Board meeting. The Friends of the Library are holding a volunteer recognition brunch on Sunday, March 1 at 10:30am. In addition to the brunch there will be raffle prizes and entertainment.

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

Mr. Mullen, City Librarian, reported that the Friends approved requests for funds from the Fairview Branch Library for Kindergarten backpacks; the Teen Council for a Book Buddies program and a teen arts contest.

The Friends Board voted to honor teen volunteer Desire Johnson as the volunteer of the year at the volunteer recognition brunch.

Julie MacDonald, Public Services Librarian II, made a report to the Board on Citywide Reads 2009. The Citywide Reads book selection is *The Shadow Catcher* by Marianne Wiggins. Citywide Reads will be held from March 7 – April 4.

**Report on Citywide Reads 2009**

Promotions this year include: creation of a Facebook page; a Citywide Reads blog and a book mob. The book mob will be held on February 25 at noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Promenade near the Santa Monica Farmer's Market.

People will assemble at noon and read aloud from the same page in the *Shadow Catcher*. The book mob will pass out free books and resource guides. New this year are partnerships with the California Heritage Museum and the Commission on the Status of Women.

A variety of programs have been planned for Citywide Reads. Marianne Wiggins will speak on March 21 at 2pm at the Main Library.

Susan Annett, Principal Librarian for Public Services, presented on Library service to the Pico Neighborhood. The team investigating Library service to the Pico Neighborhood includes: staff from the Library; staff from Virginia Ave. Park; City staff and architects from Koning Eizenberg.

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

The community approached staff about a joint use library/school facility at the Edison Language Academy. However, issues of timing, access and size made the Edison site unfeasible. Virginia Ave Park was next presented as an option. Library staff is also meeting with the Economic Development Department to discuss other locations in the Pico corridor.

The team conducted a focus group with the Pico Neighborhood Association where a desire for a library in the Pico Neighborhood was expressed. At the September 23 City Council meeting Council directed city staff to investigate the possibility of locating a new branch of the Santa Monica Public Library in the Pico Neighborhood and to request input from stakeholders and relevant Boards and Commissions. On January 22, 2009 a Community Workshop inviting public input on library service in the Pico neighborhood was held.

Approximately 6100 notices were mailed to the neighborhood and about 50 people attended the meeting.

Issues that the community expressed as important were:

- synergy with existing buildings & programs in the park
- minimize disruption to neighbors & farmer's market
- minimize disruption while building
- minimize traffic impact on Virginia Ave
- minimize footprint – *1 or 2 story library ok*
- eager for a library – *Virginia Ave Park location expedites completion*
- additional park activity space is welcome
- proximity to the library counts - *Fairview Library too far*
- unique design to support a strong cultural identity strengthened by diversity

The Board reviewed the three proposed locations at Virginia Ave Park for the full service branch: the Street Scheme, a single story facility on Cloverfield; the Courtyard Scheme, a single story facility built to the south of the Thelma Terry facility and the Promenade Scheme, a two story building that reinforces the idea of the pedestrian promenade.

The team will report its finding to City Council in March.

The City Manager directed staff to review the current fiscal year budget and develop a 3% cost savings plan. Staff was also directed to find an additional reduction of 3% for next fiscal year.

**Library Budget Plan Update**

Josephine Roth a frequent user of the computer commons addressed the issue of children using the internet computers in the Main Library computer commons. Ms. Roth's concern is that young people may inadvertently view sexual explicit material on the computers in the computer commons.

**Children's Use of Internet in the Computer Commons at the Main Library**

Board discussion followed. The Board reviewed the Santa Monica Public Library Internet Policy and Use Guidelines and those of surrounding libraries. The Board determined that the Library policy is appropriate.

Lucy Dyke, Transportation Planning Manager, addressed the Board's concerns about parking at the Main Library. The Board asked to have a parking space on the west side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street between the driveway to the parking garage and the driveway to the surface parking lot eliminated to create better visibility. Another issue is that people ignore the one way signs in the surface parking lot and travel two ways. There was also a report that the meter on the surface lot is not working.

**Main Library Parking Safety Issues**

Ms. Dyke reported that there is no enforceable one way signage in the surface lot. She presented two options to the Board; add enforceable signage and have the police department ticket or remove the one way signage and use the lot as a two way lot. Board discussion followed. The Board recommends better signage and enforcement so the lot is used as one way.

Ms. Dyke reported that while Transportation Management feels the parking space between the two driveways on 7<sup>th</sup> Street is safe it will be removed. The parking space in question is near the Library parking garage which provides plenty of parking to the surrounding area.

Ms. Dyke will follow up on the complaint that the meter on the surface lot is not working.

The Board discussed the settlement in the Google lawsuit.

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

The California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners Southern Workshop will be held on March 14 at the Torrance Public Library. The Boardmembers are encouraged to attend. The speakers for the workshop are Joan Frye Williams, Library and Information Technology Consultant and Stacey Aldrich, California Deputy State Librarian.

**Secretary's Report**

**CALTAC Southern Workshop in Torrance**

Roger Kelly has been hired to fill the Head of Youth Services vacancy left when Ellen Braby retired. Stephanie Archer has been hired for the Librarian II acquisitions position in IMD. Susan Lamb has been promoted to Librarian II to fill the vacancy left by Nanette Schneir. Nanette Schneir retired after 31 years of service. Recruitment for a Librarian II in Youth Services is taking

**Library Recruitments**

place.

Staff distributed the December 2008 Library statistics.

**Library Statistics for December 2008**

Mr. Mullen reported that he has been in contact with staff from the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum and they have put the contract for a contractor out for bid. Museum staff is continuing to fundraise. The museum plans to occupy the space at the Library in late Fall of 2009.

**Report on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum**

Chair Edwards, Friends Boardmember Martha Goode and Mr. Mullen visited Senator Fran Pavley's district office and met with her field deputy to discuss library priorities. Claudia Fishler, Assistant City Librarian, visited Assemblymember Julia Brownley's district office.

**Report on the California Library Association Day in the District**

The Youth Services program guidelines were designed to provide a structured way for people to submit a proposal for a joint Library program.

**Youth Services Program Guidelines**

Library staff developed a Facebook page to promote Library services, the collection, databases and events.

**Library Facebook Page**

The Ocean Park improvements are on hold due to budget cuts. Staff plans to resubmit the work at a later date as a capital improvement project.

**Update on Ocean Park Improvements**

City staff and the Santa Monica Conservancy have been working on a draft lease for the shotgun house.

**Update on the Shotgun House**

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: an update on the budget plan and a report on Library service to the Pico Neighborhood.

**Agenda Building**

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

**Adjournment**

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair