

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of March 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, March 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: Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Susan Annett, Principal Librarian for Public Services; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst; Leigh Brumberg and Elaine Brumberg, members of the public

Leigh Brumberg a member of the Social Services Commission spoke to the Board.

Public Input

Boardmember Oppenheim made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of February 5, 2009. Boardmember Blackwell 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 activities and February Board meeting. The Friends held their annual volunteer appreciation brunch on March 1. Approximately 88 volunteers attended the brunch which included food, raffle prizes and entertainment.

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

At the Friends of the Library February Board meeting the Friends approved funds to support the second Living Library Project.

The Board discussed a recent letter from Mr. Jamshid Ashourian regarding free and unfiltered internet access on the Library computers. Mr. Mullen, City Librarian, will draft a response to Mr. Ashourian.

Communications from the Public

The Board discussed a recent letter to the editor of the *Santa Monica Mirror* from Mr. Pro Se.

The Recreation and Parks Commission passed a motion that they were in support of locating a library in the Pico Neighborhood at the Virginia Ave. Park. However, they would like alternative ideas for transportation to the

Report on Library Service to the Pico Neighborhood

park explored.

The Commission's concerns included the addition of surface parking spaces in the park and the loss of open and green space.

Economic Development Staff continues to explore other locations along Pico Blvd. for a library site.

The team which includes staff from the Library, Virginia Ave. Park and the City Architect's Office will write a staff report and make a presentation to Council in April on Library service to the Pico Neighborhood.

The Board expressed a desire to comment on the draft staff report to Council.

The Library submitted a 3% savings plan that represents a total of \$330,000 in savings. The plan will be implemented in the current 2008/09 fiscal year. The Library's 5% savings plan represents a total of \$550,000 in savings and will be implemented in fiscal year 2009/10. The City has implemented a hiring freeze for non-sworn positions.

Follow up on Budget Plan

The Board discussed ideas for the Library Board video to be shown at the Annual Board and Commission Dinner on March 30. Filming of the video will be on March 10 at the Main Library.

Discussion of the Annual Board and Commission Video

The Board discussed several articles from the library publications *Library Hotline* and *Library Journal*.

Nationwide Current Library Trends - Review of Library Journal Articles

Staff distributed the January 2009 Library statistics. Board discussion followed.

Secretary's Report

Library Statistics for January 2009

Library staff participated in a Book Mob on February 25 to promote Citywide Reads. Staff gave out resource guides and free copies of *The Shadow Catcher* by Marianne Wiggins at the Promenade. At noon everyone assembled read aloud together from the same section of the book.

Report on Citywide Reads

Two new staff members have joined the Library - Roger Kelly, Librarian III, Head of Youth Services and Stephanie Archer, Librarian II Acquisitions in Information Management.

Staff Recruitments

Mr. Mullen distributed an article from the Santa Monica Daily Press on the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum.

Report on Santa Monica Historical Society Museum

The parking space on the west side of 7th Street between the driveway to the parking garage and the driveway to the surface parking lot was eliminated to create better visibility. One way signage was posted at the exit of the Library surface parking lot to encourage parkers to use the lot as one

Update on Main Library Parking Safety Issues

way.

The Board discussed the basics of the Brown Act.

Brown Act Discussion

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: update on the Library's new website; an update on Brainfuse and an update on the Library budget plan.

Agenda Building

The next Library Board meeting will be at the Montana Ave. Branch on April 2.

Boardmember Breisch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Boardmember Oppenheim seconded the motion. Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm.

Adjournment

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen

Edward Edwards

City Librarian

Library Board Chair