

# SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



## Minutes of the SPECIAL Meeting of October 6, 2011 To Be Approved

- Call to Order** A SPECIAL meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Vice Chairperson, Dan Stern, at 7:03 p.m., Thursday, October 6, 2011 at the Fairview Branch Library, Community Room, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica.
- Roll Call**
- PRESENT:** Boardmember Blackwell, Boardmember Breisch, Boardmember Oppenheim, Boardmember Sheldon and Vice Chair Stern
- ABSENT:** None
- ALSO PRESENT:** Roger Kelly, Youth Services Coordinator; Greg Mullen, City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst
- Public Input** No report.
- Approval of the Library Board Minutes** Motion by Boardmember Sheldon, seconded by Boardmember Blackwell to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of September 1, 2011. The motion was approved by the following vote:
- AYES: Boardmember Blackwell, Boardmember Sheldon and Vice Chair Stern
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Boardmember Oppenheim, Boardmember Breisch
- Boardmember Oppenheim arrived at 7:08 p.m.
- Report from the Friends of the Library, a Library Support Group** Greg Mullen, City Librarian, gave a report on the Friends of the Library Board meeting. The Friends of the Library have hired Susana Schuarzberg as the new bookkeeper. Toni Scharff, recording secretary of the Friends Board has resigned. Boardmember Sharon Wells is reviewing the Friends' bylaws.
- Report on Summer Reading 2011** Roger Kelly, Youth Services Coordinator reported on Summer Reading 2011. He began by presenting some overall statistics:
- This is the first year summer reading signups were over 3,000
  - The first year over 500 teens signed up
  - A 35% completion rate for kids and teens
  - Kids and teens read 1,444,800 minutes a 25% increase over last year
  - The libraries held 385 summer reading programs for kids and teens

Kids' program highlights included: magic shows; Polynesian dancers; movies; book discussions; folk dancing; Paws to Read; balloon twisting; crafts; storytimes; Harry Potter challenge; animal shows; drumming; world storytellers and more.

Teens' program highlights included: a 3-week intensive Teen Writer's Workshop with local authors; Nerd Rock Concert; Food Fan Club; book discussions; crafts and photography workshops.

**Report on the Local History and California Reads Grants**

Mr. Mullen reported on the Local History and California READS grants. Santa Monica Public Library was awarded a grant for \$19,000 from the California State Library. The objective is to create an online site for the community to record, access and discuss local history. The grant will fund website design. The local history website will complement the Image Archive and Imagine Santa Monica.

The impetus for a local history website comes from the Pico Branch Library community process where interest was expressed in the cultural history of the community. The website will include photographs, documents, oral histories, interviews, personal stories, etc. Some of the data may reside on the Library network and other components in the cloud on the open internet, for example, Flickr and YouTube.

Ivy Weston, Public Services Librarian, applied for and was awarded a grant for \$5,000 from the California Council for the Humanities (CCH). CCH is a nonprofit organization devoted to strengthening communities by creating, sponsoring and promoting change.

The project, California Reads, is similar to Santa Monica's Citywide Reads in that staff will organize programs, discussions and activities around the reading of a single book.

The book that was selected is *A Paradise Built in Hell* by Rebecca Solnit. The theme of the book is how communities respond after a disaster. This theme resonates with the City of Santa Monica's renewed emphasis on emergency preparedness. The grant will fund programs and the purchase of copies of the book for discussion groups.

**Report on the 2012 Citywide Reads Selection**

Mr. Mullen reported on Citywide Reads 2012. Robert Graves, Public Services Librarian, is heading the project this year. The selected title is *Lady in the Lake* by Raymond Chandler.

Some program ideas include:

- Popular mystery authors - Michael Connelly, Robert Crais, Denise Hamilton
- Chandler biographer, Judith Freeman
- Movie series based on Chandler novels

Boardmember Breisch arrived at 7:35 p.m.

**Report on the Pico Branch Project**

Mr. Mullen walked the Board through the Pico Branch Library project design development plans that were approved by City Council on September 27.

**Library Board Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Library Board held elections for Chair and Vice Chair. Boardmember Oppenheim nominated Boardmember Blackwell for the position of Chair.

AYES: Boardmember Breisch, Boardmember Oppenheim, Boardmember Sheldon and Vice Chair Stern

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Boardmember Breisch nominated Boardmember Oppenheim for the position of Vice Chair.

AYES: Boardmember Blackwell, Boardmember Breisch, Boardmember Sheldon and Vice Chair Stern

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

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

Vice Chair Stern reported on an article in Library Journal.

**Secretary's Report**

Mr. Mullen reported that downloadable Library eBooks are now available for the Kindle.

**Update on Library Services and Programs**

**Update on Library Staffing**

Library staff In-Service Day will be held on Monday, October 10.

Diane Bednarski, Principal Librarian for Information Management has resigned.

Library staff recruitments include: Principal Librarian for Information Management; Librarian I at Ocean Park and six Library Page positions.

Erica Cuyugan, Librarian II Youth Services and Shana Johnson, Librarian II Youth Services, both participated in the Eureka Institute, a leadership program for young professionals.

**Update on Library Facilities and Equipment**

The contract negotiations for Polaris, the integrated library system are nearing completion. The implementation is on schedule for Spring.

The Montana Avenue Branch remodel work is tentatively scheduled for mid-January.

**Update on Library Security and Safety**

The Santa Monica Police Department and the City Attorney's Office will provide some criminal offenses training for the Library Service Officers.

**Library Statistics**

Staff distributed the August 2011 Library statistics and the annual report from fiscal year 2010/11. Board discussion followed.

**Agenda Building**

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: update on Citywide Reads 2012.

**Adjournment**

Vice Chair Stern adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Greg Mullen  
City Librarian

Dan Stern  
Library Board Vice Chair

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