

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of October 2, 2014 To Be Approved

Call to Order A REGULAR meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chair, Kathie Sheldon, at 7:02 p.m., Thursday, October 2, 2014 at the Main Library, Administration Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Vice Chair Ken Blackwell, Boardmember Ken Breisch, Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, Chairperson Kathie Sheldon and Boardmember Bryce Snell

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Maria Carpenter, Director of Library Services; Robert Graves, Librarian I, Public Services; Roger Kelly, Youth Services Coordinator; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst

Public Input None

Approval of the Library Board Minutes Motion by Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, seconded by Boardmember Ken Breisch to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of September 4, 2014. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Vice Chair Ken Blackwell, Boardmember Ken Breisch, Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, Chairperson Kathie Sheldon and Boardmember Bryce Snell

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

Wrap Up Report From Staff on the Kids and Teens Summer Reading Program Roger Kelly, Youth Services Coordinator, reported on the 2014 Kids and Teens Summer Reading Program. The theme of the 10 week program was Fizz Boom Read! He reported that 4780 kids and teens signed up. The participants read 2.1 million minutes and 15,000 kids and teens attended 389 programs over the summer.

Milestones this year included:

- First time the Teen Club exceeded 1,000 teens participants
- First time the Montana Branch exceeded 1,000 participants
- New Pico Branch exceeded 1,000 participants

- First time the Independent Reader Club (grades 1-5) exceeded 2,000 participants

Over the past decade the participation in the program has almost tripled. The Youth Services team has already started planning for Summer Reading 2015.

Wrap Up Report on the Adult Summer Reading Program, Literary Elements

Robert Graves, Librarian I, Public Services gave a wrap up report on the Adult Summer Reading Program. 2014 marked the second year that an Adult Summer Reading component was offered in conjunction with the kids and teens programs. The theme was Literary Elements and a slate of 24 programs including author talks, movie screenings and staged readings were offered at Main and the Branch libraries. The programs drew 831 attendees.

Participants were asked to complete and return a participation form in order to be eligible for a drawing to win a Kindle Fire HD and other prizes.

Report on the 2015 Citywide Reads Book Selection

Mr. Graves reported that *Longbourn* by Jo Baker was the title selected for the 2015 Citywide Reads program. *Longbourn* is an extension of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*. It explores the lives of the servants working in the Bennet household.

The Citywide Reads program kicks off on February 14, 2015 and culminates with a visit from the author, Jo Baker, on March 21.

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

Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst, reported on the activities of the Friends of the Library. The Friends did not hold a Board meeting in September. They are waiting for a response from the Internal Revenue Service regarding their letter requesting the 2010 non-filing penalty be waived.

Discussion of the Santa Monica History Museum

Maria Carpenter, Director of Library Services, reported on the Museum's response to the Library's follow up questions regarding the 2013/2014 Santa Monica History Museum Annual Report. Even after the Museum's response some items remain pending, those include:

- Results of Museum Assessment Program (MAP) process undertaken in FY 2012-13
- Goals, objectives and plans for 2013/14
- The budget for 2013 -14 including breakdown of sources of income
- Strategies to increase visitor attendance in 2014-15
- Plans to increase volunteer assistance
- Certificate for Property Insurance
- Certificate of Liability Insurance

Board discussion followed. Boardmember Oppenheim suggested that the City Manager provide input on the pending items and the response from the Santa Monica History Museum.

The Board asked Ms. Carpenter to clarify who is the landlord of the Museum.

Another issue that has arisen is the subleasing of the Museum space for events.

Follow up Discussion and Comparison of Results of the 2014 Santa Monica Public Library Customer Survey

The Board requested a follow up and comparison of the of the results of the 2014 Santa Monica Public Library Customer Survey to the results of the 2013 Santa Monica Public Library Customer Survey. Staff distributed a report and pie chart comparing the 2014 and 2013 annual customer surveys.

Ms. Carpenter pointed out that the compliments have gone up. The number of comments on the homeless has gone down.

Nationwide Current Library Trends - Review of Library Journal Articles

The Pico Branch Library was featured in the Branching Out column of *Library Hotline* on September 29, 2014. Chair Sheldon shared several articles with the Board on building a library, tales from the stacks, the rotunda at the Powell Library and how to memorialize donors.

Secretary's Report

Update on Library Services and Programs

The Santa Monica Public Library celebrated the eighth annual Green Prize for Sustainable Literature at The Legacy of John Muir with Mike Brune of the Sierra Club and Ruskin Hartley of Heal the Bay on Wednesday, September 24. The Library awarded Green Prizes in eleven categories.

The Green Prize for Sustainable Literature is co-sponsored by the City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment, and was established to encourage and commend authors, illustrators, and publishers who produce quality books that make significant contributions to, support the ideas of, and broaden public awareness of sustainability.

895 new Library card holders were registered during Library Card Sign Up Month in September.

Ms. Carpenter and Diane Bednarski, Principal Librarian for Information Services, attended the CityLab conference in Los Angeles. CityLab is an innovative program, bringing together mayors, urban experts, city planners, writers, technologists, economists and designers. The goal of the 3-day program was to foster constructive dialogue and create scalable solutions for city leaders.

During the conference Library Staff applied for a grant from the Knight News Challenge. The question was: "How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities?" Santa Monica's proposal was the People's Lab.

The People's Lab is a framework for an experimental series of demonstrations, ideation sessions, talks, performances, interactive games, pop-ups, and other experiences produced by a mix of community members, technical and topical experts, and the library.

Update on Library Staffing

Terrie Dorio the Montana Ave. Branch Manger is retiring. Shana Sojoyner has been selected as her replacement. The Librarian II position in Youth Services Ms. Sojoyner is vacating will be posted. The position for the vacant Library Systems Analyst has been rewritten and the title has been changed from

Library Systems Analyst to Systems Engineer.

**Update on Library
Facilities and
Equipment**

Ms. Carpenter reported that there is an issue with the sound system in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium at the Main Library. Repairs will be made.

The sewer line at the Pico Branch has been replaced. However, the ground around the final 160 feet of the line is very compacted. The City Plumber is studying the problem and working on a solution.

**Update on Library
Security and Safety**

Ms. Carpenter reported the September homeless count.

**What are you
reading?**

The Boardmembers discussed what they are reading.

Agenda Building

No items were suggested.

Adjournment

Chair Kathie Sheldon adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Maria Carpenter
Director of Library Services

Kathie Sheldon
Library Board Chair

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