

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2011

Attendance: Board Members: Robert Duff, Liz Hildreth, Deborah Ives, Eileen Schmitz, John Schmitz, Bob Thatcher **Guests:** Safa Arabo, Chris Gonzales, Susan Moore

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President John Schmitz at 4:35 p.m. There was general discussion about hoping to build up FOL reserves for our long-term objective of having a larger library. Because of conflicting schedules, the order of agenda items was shifted.

Approval of the Minutes: The November minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Thatcher shared October and November reports which were accepted unanimously. (See attached.)

- Page 1 is the balance sheet, page 2 shows income and expenditures, and page 3 is a graph of the Bookstore's daily sales
- A CD matured and was rolled into Checking until a decision is made on a new bank. Please give Bob suitable questions to ask potential banks.

Library Report:

- The La Mesa Library is #1 in the County. Our 9,000 square foot building beat out 30,000 sq. ft. libraries such as Poway and El Cajon with our circulation of 63,000. Possible reasons are our proximity to the bus and trolley lines, our central location for students, and many book requests.
- A new *Readers and Writers* event will take place on February 25, 2012, as part of La Mesa's Centennial events, and coordinate with LM Kiwanis, the County Library system, and *Read Local*. Details are still being worked out.
- John suggested using Readers Express for Book Clubs, such as the Spanish-language group which could use more copies. A special line item could be made on the Treasurer's reports.
- Safa Arabo talked about the County Library's web design. We want to be linked in both directions.
- Future activities: Put a bookmobile in the Flag Day parade on June 2, and celebrate the Library's birthday party on June 9. Both will be tied to the Centennial.
- The Geo-caching project (*Expand the Parks*) will be a high-tech treasure hunt. The library will host a cache, probably in a false book, and the Friends' Bookstore will have a travel bug with a narrative about the Bookstore. The start date will be at the June 2 parade. It was moved, seconded and approved to donate \$100 in our budget's Community Outreach fund to LM Parks and Recreation Foundation to help with Centennial activities. The Holiday Potluck for Library and FOL volunteers will be this Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

IT: Bob Duff will work on putting volunteer pictures on the FOL website. Bob Duff asked if donors could be thanked on the website. (Yes.)

President's Report: John Schmitz

- John passed around revised logo samples. He will now contact the artist to arrange for the finalized logo and pay him after that.
- Deborah Ives, and John Schmitz will review the rest of the Bylaws.
- There was discussion about how to better coordinate use of the Bookstore room for clubs and other activities. Liz will provide FOL with a monthly calendar of events and change staff procedures so that no one can just add the group.
- John attended a meeting of County Friends on December 1, at which he got lots of good ideas. He is working on a January information report similar to one some other Friends groups have produced.

Bookstore Report: Deborah Ives

- She has a new volunteer, Bob Cerello, who will start in January.
- Eileen will send a get-well card from the FOL to our Wednesday volunteer, Robin, who is out for surgery.
- Another request came in for an art book donation. It was unanimously voted to not do so this year.
- It was voted to close the Bookstore from Thursday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m. to Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Deborah will work privately with a volunteer.
- Deborah researched web-selling sites thoroughly and provided a handout (see attached). Biblio.com is a real contender but only does email. For any of the sites, FOL needs a credit card or debit card. Deborah would also need the tax ID number. A motion to have Deborah become a Basic Seller was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- After discussion of how to compensate Deborah's time online, it was agreed to not pay a stipend but rather a commission based on online sales, how many hours, etc. Bob Duff was asked to investigate what a going rate would be. Once decided, this should be a line item in the FOL budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Eileen Schmitz