

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2012

Attendance:

Board Members: Robert Duff, Deborah Ives, John Schmitz, Eileen Schmitz, and Bob Thatcher. **Guests:** Safa Arabo, Jessie Goodwin, and Chris Gonzalez

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President John Schmitz at 4:36 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The May minutes were approved as read.

Library Report: Safa Arabo and Jessie Goodwin represented library staff today.

- Jessie brought fliers for the upcoming Customer Appreciation Open House next Thursday, July 26, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Library Director Jose Aponte will take part.
- Safa announced that La Mesa ended the past fiscal year with the honor of first place in circulation (858,789) for the year. La Mesa also added almost 5,000 new library cards.
- John Schmitz had a recent letter from Director Aponte concerning the library system's final budget and the availability county-wide of \$250,000 in matching funds on a first-come, first serve basis.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bob Thatcher distributed the Statement of Financial Position, Income and Expenditures Statement, and daily Bookstore sales for May. It was accepted as written.
- The June reports are preliminary until he has all receipts but he thinks the overall numbers are close to final.
- Bookstore sales fell a bit in May and June, leading to speculation of possible causes.
- John and Bob will finish the transfer of Bank of America accounts to Comerica by the next meeting.
- John Schmitz explained that Comerica will soon unveil a new "convenience card" that would act like a Visa gift card. With a set limit, they would better isolate the checking accounts from unauthorized access. John and Bob will explore this further. Meanwhile the current system of debit cards for separate subaccounts will continue.
- Budget Approval - The proposed budget discussed in May was presented. After discussion, it was agreed that Bob and John will add a footnote and attachment detailing the use of matching funds for library materials, not equipment. The budget was moved, seconded and approved.

President's Report:

- John is attending library events when possible to promote FOL membership and has gained about ten more, bringing the total to ninety.
- The national *Library Journal* magazine named the San Diego County Library as the 2012 Library of the Year. On July 10, the La Mesa City Council issued a proclamation to Director Jose Aponte.

- It was agreed to continue our membership with the Chamber of Commerce and try to take more advantage of the organization's networking opportunities.
- John will attend the County Friends meeting tomorrow, July 20.
- John said the Bylaws update was next up on his projects list for the Friends.
- John noted a fundraising offer by Jamba Juice and asked if the board was interested in that or possibly a wine tasting fund raiser in downtown La Mesa. The topic was tabled.

Bookstore Report:

- Deborah Ives is happy to announce a new volunteer, Katherine.
- Deborah would like to have a poster holder similar to the one in the front lobby to attract attention to the Bookstore, as a surprising number of Library visitors don't realize it's there. Safa volunteered to get approval and then find out if a similar one has been returned to the system. If need be, the FOL will buy one for Bookstore use.
- Safa said that some patrons still ask about the old book sales on the third Saturday of every month on the former library building's patio. Safa suggested we consider a set schedule for Bookstore special sales. It was tabled for now.

IT:

- Bob Duff requested the approved May minutes for online posting. He will add the May financials from the treasurer.
- He would also appreciate ideas for features for the webpage as he has openings for more pages. John would like to see pictures of the June celebrations while Bob Duff would prefer to publicize upcoming events.

Other Business:

Chris Gonzalez suggested using the Police Community Room and its adjacent patio instead of Council chambers for special events. Chris and Safa will check it out.

Discussion over the role of minutes took place. Some prefer less detail, but the consensus of the board was that there was appropriate detail given the lengthy agenda. It was agreed that the Board always has the opportunity to edit minutes before approving them for posting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.