

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2012

Attendance: **Board Members:** Robert Duff, Deborah Ives, Ruth Ketchum, Eileen Schmitz, John Schmitz, and Bob Thatcher. **Guest:** Chris Gonzalez (LM City representative)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President John Schmitz at 4:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The February minutes were approved.

Library Report:

- John introduced La Mesa's new head librarian, **Ruth Ketchum**. Ruth is with La Mesa as both our branch librarian and overseer of eight smaller libraries in the County but most of her time is here. She hopes to remain longer than the six-month pilot indicates.
- The new book sorter has finally been installed and is working quite well.
- Safa Arabo is currently reorganizing the book storage area.
- La Mesa Library is again ranked among the most-used in the County system.
- Past FOL president Joe Glidden recently wrote a letter to the *San Diego Union Tribune* in support of local libraries.
- Ruth hopes to arrange for the Bookmobile take part in the Flag Day Parade in June.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Thatcher distributed the Statement of Financial Position as of February 29, 2012, the January Income and Expenditures Statement, and daily Bookstore sales. His report was moved, seconded, and approved.

Chris Gonzalez put FOL in touch with the new manager of the Jackson Drive **Comerica**, who is eager to have our business and offered new check and endorsement stamps for free. The possibility of setting up subaccounts for the Express programs is under consideration. John and Bob Thatcher will try to meet with Comerica soon to discuss options.

President's Report:

- John asked Ruth to get together with her staff to develop a list of needs.
- Ruth would like to take part in a Children's Book Fair in downtown La Mesa in May. Dina Weil of Readers Inc. is behind this project.
- John, Bob Thatcher, and Ruth will work on a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year.
- John will cull out the non-renewals from his Membership spreadsheet. Current membership is around 75. Deborah suggested we consider giving members a discount in the Bookstore. This will be taken up at a later meeting.
- The Readers/Writers event resulted in \$129.51 net profit. We agreed the bookmarks were not needed.
- John will coordinate with Jessie Godwin for the Library's anniversary in June. They hope to arrange for an historic photo to be blown up and then have a Grossmont College instructor take pictures of attendees in front of it.

- Deborah suggested getting book agents here to read and critique a one-page sample for a fee which could be split with FOL.
- Business cards will be postponed. Meanwhile, John will get more FOL brochures printed.
- John and Deborah finished the bylaws but time precludes reviewing them today.
- Deborah moved that FOL donate some books to the Arts Alliance. It was seconded and approved with the proviso that she report all donations in kind.
- John expressed his thanks again to the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District's Print Shop for its tremendous help with the Readers/Writers event.

Bookstore Report:

- Deborah Ives reported that the Bookstore made \$61.88 in average sales over the last month.
- She has a new volunteer who is exceptionally detailed in his work.
- The Bookstore had its first online sale. Alibris will send checks twice a month. The reports will then be given to Treasurer Bob Thatcher.
- Bob Thatcher moved that Deborah receive 25% of Alibris' gross online sales to cover her costs of storage at home, packaging, mailing, and online work. It was approved unanimously.
- Deborah will be taking a temp job soon which may cause her to miss meetings in the next few months. If necessary, she will send her reports by email.

IT: Bob Duff has added recent FOL Board Minutes and some Financials to the FOL webpage. He would like to add a regular President's column, Bookstore updates, and anything Ruth would like to have included. Please give him all data in written form.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Eileen Schmitz