

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Minutes of General Membership and Board Meeting
November 27, 2012

Attendance:

Board Members: Robert Duff, Deborah Ives, John Schmitz, Eileen Schmitz, Bob Thatcher, Heather Pisani-Kristl (Library Ex-officio)

Members: Safa Arabo, Robert Cerello, Joe Glidden, Mary E. Harris, Gertrude Hoffman, Phil Hoffman, Carol Thatcher, Carol Yaremko

Call to Order: President John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. He welcomed members to the General Meeting and introduced Heather Pisani-Kristl, our new head librarian.

Bylaws: A summary of the proposed changes had been mailed to all FOL members, along with the announcement of today's General Membership meeting. The full text was available at www.friendsoflamesalibrary.org. Several areas were discussed:

- ***Article I: Purpose*** - It was felt that the original Purpose suited us better than the proposed revision. It was agreed to change back. In part, it reads: "The Friends of the La Mesa Library, Inc. shall promote activities which will foster full community awareness and appreciation of the library as a community center of learning, education, and pleasure, offering information, services and programs in addition to book dispersal."
- ***Article III: Memberships*** - It was moved, seconded and voted to confer voting rights after six (6) months' membership, not twelve months.
- ***Article VIII: Gift Designations*** - Proposed new language would allow donors to choose where/how to use their donations. Debate centered on our primary mission to support the La Mesa Library. Setting up a long-range endowment for the building and/or support of a future larger library is secondary.
- Treasurer Bob Thatcher pointed out that almost all of the money raised through Bookstore sales goes directly to the Library (see annual budget), with the exception of small bills for paper, necessary insurance, website, and the maintenance of reserve funds sufficient to cover FOL's obligations. Any other needs can be addressed through the budgetary process.

It was moved, seconded and voted to adopt the proposed changes to the Bylaws with the above-noted six months for voting. The Bylaws vote was thirteen (13) ayes with one (1) abstention.

Election of FOL Board Members: The current officers were willing to serve again. No one else had yet contacted John Schmitz so he opened the floor for nominations. There were none. The current slate was voted into office unanimously. As this election took place under new Bylaws, the terms will be backdated to start on July 1, 2012, and end on June 30, 2014.

Holiday Party: The Library will host an Open House for its volunteers on Friday, December 14, from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. There will also be a breakfast event for staff members.

Approval of the Minutes: The October 25, 2012 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Thatcher reviewed the FOL financial situation for the benefit of the members present:

- At the beginning of the fiscal year, we had \$40,000 in the bank. Right now, there is \$33,000 in the bank because early in the fiscal year, we wrote about \$7000 to the County for matching funds.
- The budget anticipates income of \$24,000, mostly from book sales.
- We receive about \$500 in cash donations that are sent in with membership renewals.
- Administrative costs include community outreach, Bookstore equipment, insurance, and other standard operating expenses.
- The Friends spend about \$23,000 for materials and programs, of which 95% goes to direct support of the library.
- Costs are fairly consistent from year to year.
- Bob complimented the outstanding volunteer staff because 99% of FOL money comes from their sales of approximately \$70 per day.
- John Schmitz pointed out that one of the semantic changes to the Bylaws, Article IX, Section 9.03 is to have a compilation committee review the records instead of a full audit. Current audit accounting requirements would cost FOL thousands of dollars per year.
- Bob noted that two signatories out of three are needed on all checks.

Library Staff Report: Heather Pisani-Kristl

- La Mesa is #2 in circulation, just behind Vista.
- The Book Club will discuss *The Help* on December 19.
- The Library will close at 5:00 p.m. on both December 24 and December 31.

Bookstore: Deborah Ives

- She is still very interested in getting a sign for the Bookstore door.
- She also wants to turn a few shelves to create a workspace in the back corner.
- We've been a member of Alibris for a year. The annual cost is only \$20. She recently sold a book for \$89 with just a small fee for shipping.
- The Bookstore will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day.

IT: Bob Duff reminded us to review the website. Read the financials, minutes and other information.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.